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**Montana Department of Transportation**  
**Motor Carrier Services Division**  
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## **Montana High-Level Radioactive Waste and Transuranic Waste Transportation Act**

**10-3-1301. (Effective January 1, 2004) Short title.** This part may be cited as the "Montana High-Level Radioactive Waste and Transuranic Waste Transportation Act".

**10-3-1302. (Effective January 1, 2004) Purpose.** The purpose of this part is to enhance the safety of Montana's citizens by requiring a special permit, inspections, and monitoring of shipments of high-level radioactive waste and transuranic waste that travel through Montana by motor carrier or railroad.

**10-3-1303. (Effective January 1, 2004) Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:**

- (1) "High-level radioactive waste" means:
  - (a) the highly radioactive material resulting from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel, including liquid waste produced directly in reprocessing and any solid material derived from the liquid waste that contains fission products in sufficient concentrations;
  - (b) irradiated reactor fuel; or
  - (c) other highly radioactive waste material that the U.S. nuclear regulatory commission has determined by rule requires permanent isolation.
- (2) "Spent nuclear fuel" means fuel that has been withdrawn from a nuclear reactor following irradiation, the constituent elements of which have not been separated by reprocessing.
- (3) "Transuranic waste" means material contaminated with elements that have an atomic number greater than 92, including neptunium, plutonium, americium, and curium, and that are in concentrations greater than 10 nanocuries per gram or in other concentrations that the U.S. nuclear regulatory commission may prescribe.

**10-3-1304. (Effective January 1, 2004) Radioactive waste transportation monitoring, emergency response, and training account -- purpose -- disbursement.** (1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund to be known as the radioactive waste transportation monitoring, emergency response, and training account administered by the disaster and emergency services division of the department of military affairs.

(2) The money deposited into this account by the department of transportation pursuant to 10-3-1307 may be used only for the following purposes:

- (a) to reimburse the highway patrol for expenses incurred in monitoring or providing escorts for motor carriers transporting high-level radioactive waste or transuranic waste through the state;
- (b) to provide funding for training local emergency response personnel in handling radioactive waste accidents, spills, and other related emergencies; and
- (c) to reimburse local emergency response entities for costs incurred in the event that an accident, spill, or other related emergency occurs.

(3) Prior to rulemaking provided for under 10-3-1309(3), the disaster and emergency services division of the department of military affairs shall coordinate with the public service

commission and the department of transportation to provide to an appropriate legislative interim committee prior to the 59th legislature a plan that prioritizes prospective disbursement of money in the account described in subsection (1).

**10-3-1305. (Effective January 1, 2004) Responsibilities of owner.** (1) Prior to shipping high-level radioactive waste or transuranic waste through the state, an owner and the originating shipper if not the owner shall provide to the transporter and to the disaster and emergency services division, within limits set by the regulating federal authority:

- (a) a shipment description, including type of waste;
  - (b) a safety plan, which must be submitted to the disaster and emergency services division and which must include:
    - (i) the specifications of casks being used to transport the radioactive waste, including how the casks have been tested and certified;
    - (ii) proof of training of an owner's escorts for emergency situations, including accidents;
    - (iii) the intended route;
    - (iv) all safety precautions to be taken to prevent an accident; and
    - (v) emergency plans for threats to safety;
  - (c) proof of insurance or an indemnity bond. If the owner and the originating shipper if not the owner is covered by a federal insurance program for the transport of radioactive material, proof of coverage by that program is sufficient. If a federal insurance program does not cover the owner, the owner shall provide proof of a bond or indemnity insurance coverage as required by the regulating federal authority.
  - (d) proof of a radiotelephone or other working, two-way voice communications device approved by the nuclear regulatory commission for the main transporter and for each escort vehicle.
- (2) An owner or the originating shipper if not the owner may not transport through the state any high-level radioactive waste or transuranic waste that is not properly sealed in a cask approved by the regulating federal authority.

**10-3-1306. (Effective January 1, 2004) Transportation of radioactive waste through state -- notification -- responsibilities of division.** (1) A person or entity may not ship high-level radioactive waste or transuranic waste through the state by rail or motor carrier unless the person or entity first notifies the disaster and emergency services division and the department of transportation, pays the appropriate fees, and obtains a permit.

(2) Upon receiving the notification required under subsection (1), the disaster and emergency services division shall notify the highway patrol, the public service commission, or other agencies as appropriate.

(3) The disaster and emergency services division shall reimburse the highway patrol for expenses incurred in monitoring or escorting motor carriers, as provided in 10-3-1308, from money collected in the radioactive waste transportation monitoring, emergency response, and training account created in 10-3-1304.

**10-3-1307. (Effective January 1, 2004) Responsibilities of department of transportation -- assessment and collection of fees -- issuance of permits -- inspection of motor carriers.** (1) After receiving notification from the person or entity that plans to ship high-level radioactive waste or transuranic waste through the state, the department of transportation shall assess fees according to the following schedule:

(a) a fee of \$2,500 must be assessed for each cask designed for transport by truck; and  
(b) a fee of \$4,500 must be assessed for the first cask designed for transport by rail and a fee of \$3,000 for each additional cask designed for transport by rail that is shipped by the same person or entity in the same shipment.

(2) Payment of the fees provided in subsection (1) is the responsibility of the person or entity who owns the waste.

(3) Upon receipt of the fees provided in subsection (1), the department of transportation shall issue to the owner of the waste a permit that must be carried with the waste as it is traveling through the state.

(4) The department of transportation shall deposit all of the fees collected under this section in the radioactive waste transportation monitoring, emergency response, and training account created in 10-3-1304.

(5) If the waste is to be transported through the state by motor carrier, the department of transportation shall coordinate with the highway patrol on the inspection of the motor carrier by the motor carrier services division.

(6) This section does not exempt the operator of a motor carrier from any of the provisions of Title 61, chapter 10, from Title 69, chapter 12, or from any other law that applies to the operation of motor vehicles in Montana.

(7) Fees under this section must be assessed regardless of ownership, and 61-3-321(5) and 61-10-127 do not apply.

**10-3-1308. (Effective January 1, 2004) Responsibilities of highway patrol -- monitoring of motor carriers -- billing.** (1) After receiving notification from the disaster and emergency services division that a motor carrier will be transporting high-level radioactive waste or transuranic waste through the state, the highway patrol shall establish a plan for monitoring the shipment.

(2) Monitoring a shipment by motor carrier may include escorting the vehicle through the state, establishing checkpoints, shadowing the vehicle, electronically following the vehicle's movements, or any other method determined by the highway patrol to be effective and safe.

(3) The highway patrol shall coordinate inspection of the motor carrier with the department of transportation's motor carrier services division.

(4) The highway patrol shall determine the cost that it has incurred in monitoring each motor carrier and shall submit a bill for reimbursement to the disaster and emergency services division for payment out of the account established in 10-3-1304(1) according to the priorities established in 10-3-1304(3).

(5) The routing of the transport by motor carrier of high-level radioactive waste and transuranic waste must be determined by the department of transportation and the appropriate regulating federal authority.

**10-3-1309. (Effective January 1, 2004) Responsibilities of public service commission -- inspection of rails and trains -- agreements with neighboring states and provinces -- rulemaking.**

(1) After receiving notification from the disaster and emergency services division that high-level radioactive waste or transuranic waste will be shipped by railroad through the state, the public service commission shall establish a plan for inspecting the rails and the trains, as authorized in Title 69, chapter 14, part 2, that will be involved in the transportation of the waste. The plan must include but is not limited to:

- (a) coordination with the federal railroad administration on track and rolling stock inspections;
- (b) inspection and approval by a federally certified inspector no later than 1 week prior to shipment; and
- (c) a requirement that trains carrying radioactive waste or transuranic waste may not travel at greater than the speed required by federal regulations.

(2) The public service commission may enter into reciprocal agreements with adjacent states and bordering Canadian provinces that Montana's inspectors may inspect trains while they are stopped in those states or provinces before they cross the Montana border.

(3) The public service commission shall, in cooperation with the department of transportation, the disaster and emergency services division, and the highway patrol, establish rules to carry out the provisions of this part. The rules must address:

- (a) the process by which local authorities will be notified when a motor carrier or a train carrying high-level radioactive waste or transuranic waste is approaching their jurisdictions;
- (b) which local authorities will receive notification;
- (c) the process by which local governments and local emergency response entities may apply for and receive training and reimbursement money from the radioactive waste transportation monitoring, emergency response, and training account, as provided in 10-3-1304;
- (d) the criteria for qualifying to receive money from the account;
- (e) acceptable means for monitoring a train that is carrying high-level radioactive waste or transuranic waste; and
- (f) other processes or procedures that the public service commission, the department of transportation, the disaster and emergency services division, and the highway patrol determine are necessary to efficiently carry out the provisions of this part and to ensure the safe transportation of high-level radioactive waste or transuranic waste through Montana.

**10-3-1310. (Effective January 1, 2004) Penalty.** An owner found to be in violation of the provisions of 10-3-1305 through 10-3-1309 shall be fined an amount of not more than \$100,000 for each violation. In the case of an accidental spill of a cask containing transuranic waste or leakage of high-level radioactive waste, the penalty is in addition to any other liability. The department of justice is responsible for imposing and determining the amount of a fine.

## **Motor Vehicle Assessment**

**15-8-201. General assessment day.** (1) The department shall, between January 1 and the first Monday of August in each year, ascertain the names of all taxable inhabitants and assess all property subject to taxation in each county.

(2) The department shall assess property to:

(a) the person by whom it was owned or claimed or in whose possession or control it was at midnight of the preceding January 1; or

(b) except in the case of land splits, the new owner if the provisions of 15-7-304 have been met and the transfer certificate has been received and processed prior to determining the taxes that are due as provided in 15-10-305(2).

(3) The department shall also ascertain and assess all mobile homes arriving in the county after midnight of the preceding January 1.

(4) A mistake in the name of the owner or supposed owner of real property does not invalidate the assessment.

(5) The procedure provided by this section does not apply to:

(a) motor vehicles;

(b) motor homes, travel trailers, and campers;

(c) watercraft;

(d) livestock;

(e) property defined in 61-1-104 as special mobile equipment that is subject to assessment for personal property taxes on the date that application is made for a special mobile equipment plate;

(f) mobile homes and manufactured homes held by a distributor or dealer as stock in trade; and

(g) property subject to the provisions of 15-16-203.

**15-8-202. Motor vehicle assessment by department of justice.** (1) (a) The department of justice shall assess all light vehicles, subject to 61-3-313 through 61-3-316 and 61-3-501, for taxation in accordance with 61-3-503.

(b) The department of justice shall determine the fee in lieu of tax for all buses, trucks having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, and truck tractors in accordance with 61-3-528 and 61-3-529.

(c) Taxes or fees in lieu of tax on a motor vehicle under this subsection (1) must be assessed or imposed in each year on the person who owned or claimed the motor vehicles or in whose possession or control the motor vehicle was on the anniversary registration date.

(2) A tax or fee in lieu of tax may not be assessed or imposed against motor vehicles subject to taxation or to a fee in lieu of tax that constitute inventory of motor vehicle dealers as of January 1. These vehicles and all other motor vehicles subject to taxation or a fee in lieu of tax that are brought into the state after January 1 as motor vehicle dealers' inventories must be assessed to their respective purchasers as of the dates the vehicles are registered by the purchasers.

(3) "Purchasers" includes dealers who apply for registration or reregistration of motor vehicles, except as otherwise provided by 61-3-502.

(4) Goods, wares, and merchandise of motor vehicle dealers, other than new motor vehicles and new mobile homes, must be assessed at market value as of January 1.

(5) (a) The department of justice is authorized to appear in any proceeding before a county tax appeal board, the state tax appeal board, or a court that seeks to dispute an assessment made by the department pursuant to the authority granted under this section.

(b) For the purposes of proceedings before county tax appeal boards or the state tax appeal board, service of the application required under 15-15-201 must be made on the attorney general. A copy of any



application giving rise to a proceeding before a county tax appeal board or the state tax appeal board must also be served on the county treasurer of the county in which the vehicle that is the subject of the proceeding was registered.

**15-8-205. Initial assessment of class four trailer, manufactured home, and mobile home property -- when.** The department shall assess all class four trailer, manufactured home, and mobile home property immediately upon arrival in the county if the taxes have not been previously paid for that year in another county in Montana.

### **Property Tax Assessment - Mobile Homes and Manufactured Housing**

**15-24-201. Definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Dealer" means a person engaged in the distribution or sale of mobile homes or manufactured homes.

(2) "Housetrailer" means a form of housing designed to be moved from one place to another by an independent power connected to the housetrailer, which is either 8 feet wide or less or 45 feet long or less.

(3) "Manufactured home" means a residential dwelling built in a factory in accordance with the United States department of housing and urban development code and the federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards. A manufactured home does not include a mobile home or a housetrailer.

(4) "Mobile home" means forms of housing known as "trailers", "housetrainers", or "trailer coaches" exceeding 8 feet in width or 45 feet in length, designed to be moved from one place to another by an independent power connected to the mobile home or any trailer, housetrailer, or trailer coach up to 8 feet in width or 45 feet in length used as a principal residence.

**15-24-202. Payment of tax -- interest and penalty -- display of tax-paid sticker.** (1) (a) The owner of a mobile home, manufactured home, or housetrailer which is not taxed as an improvement, as improvements are defined in 15-1-101, shall pay the personal property tax in two payments, except as provided in 15-24-206.

(b) The first payment is due on or before May 31 or within 30 days from the date of the notice of taxes due, whichever is later.

(c) The second payment is due no later than November 30 of the year in which the property is assessed.

(d) If not paid on or before the date due, the tax is considered delinquent and subject to the penalty and interest provisions in 15-16-102 applicable to other delinquent property taxes. The penalty must be assessed and interest begins to accrue on the first day of delinquency.

(2) Upon request, the treasurer shall notify a lienholder if taxes on a mobile home, manufactured home, or housetrailer have not been paid.

(3) Taxes assessed against a mobile home or manufactured home after the second payment date must be prorated to reflect the remaining portion of the tax year. The prorated taxes must be added to the following year's tax roll and, except as provided in 15-24-206, are due with and must be collected with the first payment due in that year.

(4) The department of revenue shall issue tax-paid stickers to the county treasurers. Except as provided in 15-24-206 and 15-24-209, if a mobile home, manufactured home, or housetrailer is to be moved and all taxes, interest, and penalties on the mobile home or housetrailer are paid in full, the treasurer shall issue a tax-paid sticker to the owner of the mobile home, manufactured home, or housetrailer. Prior to and while in the process of moving the mobile home, manufactured home, or housetrailer, the owner shall display the tax-paid sticker, which must be visible from the exterior of the

mobile home, manufactured home, or housetrailer. A mobile home or manufactured home movement declaration of destination provided for in 15-24-206 may not be issued unless:

- (a) the taxes have been paid in full to the county treasurer; or
- (b) the exceptions in 15-24-206(3) or 15-24-209 apply.

(5) On the movement of a mobile home, manufactured home, or housetrailer in violation of this part, the county treasurer for the county where the mobile home, manufactured home, or housetrailer first comes to rest shall issue a written notice to the owner, showing the amount of delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, and interest due. In addition to the penalties provided in 15-16-102, 20% or \$50, whichever is greater, must be added to the delinquent taxes as penalty for violation of this part. On receipt of the delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, and interest, the county treasurer shall forward all delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, and interest collected under 15-16-102 to the county treasurer for the county of origin. The county of destination shall retain the penalty.

**15-24-203. Tax receipt -- when production required.** If stopped on a highway or at a state vehicle weight station by a state highway patrol officer or state vehicle weight station attendant, a person transporting a mobile home, manufactured home, or housetrailer shall produce, if requested, the property-tax-paid receipt or a duplicate issued by the county treasurer where the vehicle was taxed.

**15-24-204. Failure to display or produce declaration, sticker, or receipt -- penalty.** (1) Whoever makes a false or fraudulent declaration of destination or, when required, fails to execute a declaration of destination or fails to display or produce a declaration of destination or tax-paid receipt, if a tax-paid receipt is required, is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than 6 months or by a fine of not more than \$500, or both.

(2) Whoever fails to display a property-tax-paid sticker while in the process of moving a mobile home, manufactured home, or housetrailer or to produce a property-tax-paid receipt from 15 days after the due date for personal property taxes of 1 year to the due date for personal property taxes of the next year, when the display of a tax-paid receipt is required, commits a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$10 or more than \$50 or confinement in the county jail for not more than 30 days or both a fine and imprisonment.

**15-24-205. Sections limited to taxable trailers and manufactured homes.** The provisions of this part apply only to those mobile homes, manufactured homes, and housetrailer, as defined in this part, subject to assessment and taxation under chapter 8, part 2, and 15-24-301.

**15-24-206. Declaration of destination on imported mobile homes and manufactured homes -- display -- tax receipt -- exemptions.** (1) A person who brings a mobile home or manufactured home into the state shall immediately upon arrival in the state execute a written declaration, verified under oath, stating the destination of the mobile home or manufactured home and any other information the department of revenue may require and shall deliver the original of the declaration to whomever is on duty at the nearest port of entry station, state vehicle weight station, or other place the department may prescribe. The person shall also immediately upon arrival in the state affix a copy of the declaration to the mobile home or manufactured home at a conspicuous place.

(2) The treasurer shall issue the mobile home or manufactured home movement declaration provided for in this section to a person required by this section to execute it, in quantities the person requests to a maximum of 100. The treasurer shall issue additional quantities of the declaration to a maximum of 100 as the person requests at the discretion of the county treasurer upon receipt from the person of the previously issued declarations properly executed. Executed declarations must be delivered to the treasurer within 30 days from their issue.

(3) A person who moves a mobile home or a manufactured home from a point within the state to another point within or outside of the state shall first:

(a) execute the declaration provided for in subsection (1), deliver the original of it to the treasurer of the county in which the move originates or to any other person the department prescribes, and affix a copy of it in a conspicuous place on the mobile home or manufactured home to be moved;

(b) obtain from the county treasurer of the county in which the move originates a receipt showing:

(i) payment in full of property taxes with respect to that mobile home or manufactured home; or

(ii) payment of the property taxes provided for in 15-24-209.

(4) The provisions of subsection (3)(b) do not apply whenever a person moves a mobile home or manufactured home:

(a) from a point outside of to a point within the state;

(b) between places of business of dealers within or outside of the state;

(c) from the place of business of a dealer to a point within or outside of the state; or

(d) pursuant to the repossession of a mobile home or manufactured home, unless the treasurer has furnished the lienholder or secured party with timely notice of the delinquent tax due when information has been requested under 15-24-202(2).

**15-24-207. Department to make rules.** The department of revenue may make reasonable rules necessary for or as an aid to effectuation of the purposes of this part.

**15-24-208. Penalty for moving mobile home or manufactured home on which taxes due.** Any person who moves a mobile home or manufactured home on which property taxes are unpaid is guilty of a misdemeanor.

**15-24-209. Limit on delinquent mobile home or manufactured home taxes chargeable to security interest holder.** The holder of a perfected security interest in a mobile home, manufactured home, or housetrailer who repossesses the mobile home, manufactured home, or housetrailer as provided by law and as authorized in the contract between the owner and the secured party may not be required to pay delinquent property taxes for more than 3 years as a condition of moving the mobile home, manufactured home, or housetrailer or transferring it to another person. Any additional delinquent taxes due upon the mobile home, manufactured home, or housetrailer are a lien upon any other personal or real property of the person who was required by law to pay the delinquent taxes at the time the taxes were due.

**15-24-210. Notice of impending sale to certain lienholders.** After entry of a notation under 15-16-115(2) concerning a mobile home or manufactured home that is not taxed as an improvement to real property but before directing the sheriff to make a levy and sale on the mobile home or manufactured home, the treasurer shall notify a person who has a properly perfected security interest in the mobile home or manufactured home and who has furnished the treasurer a copy of the instrument by which the interest was perfected of the levy and sale. The notice must state that the sheriff may soon be requested to make a levy and sale on the mobile home or manufactured home.

## **Property Tax Assessment - Exceptions**

### **15-24-301. Personal property brought into the state -- assessment -- exceptions --**

**equipment.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) through (5), property in the following cases is subject to taxation and assessment for all taxes levied that year in the county in which it is located:

(a) personal property, excluding livestock, brought into this state at any time during the year that is used in the state for hire, compensation, or profit;

(b) property whose owner or user is engaged in gainful occupation or business enterprise in the state; or

(c) property that becomes a part of the general property of the state.

(2) The taxes on this property are levied in the same manner, except as otherwise provided, as though the property had been in the county on the regular assessment date, provided that the property has not been regularly assessed for the year in some other county of the state.

(3) This section does not levy a tax against a merchant or dealer within this state on goods, wares, or merchandise brought into the county to replenish the stock of the merchant or dealer.

(4) Except as provided in 15-6-217, a motor vehicle subject to the registration fee imposed by 61-3-560 and 61-3-561 that is brought into this state by a nonresident person temporarily employed in Montana and used exclusively for transportation of the person is subject to registration fees as follows:

(a) The motor vehicle fee is imposed by the county in which it is located.

(b) One-fourth of the annual fee of the motor vehicle must be paid for each quarter or portion of a quarter of the year that the motor vehicle is located in Montana.

(c) The quarterly fees are due the first day of the quarter.

(5) Agricultural harvesting machinery classified under class eight, licensed in another state, and operated on the land of a person other than the owner of the machinery under a contract for hire is subject to a fee in lieu of tax of \$35 for each machine for the calendar year in which the fee is collected. The machinery is subject to taxation under class eight only if the machinery is sold in Montana.

**15-24-302. Collection procedure.** All property mentioned in 15-24-301 is assessed at the same value as property of like kind and character, and the assessment, levy, and collection of the tax are governed by the provisions of 15-8-408, 15-16-115, 15-16-119, 15-16-404, 15-17-911, and 15-24-202, as amended, except:

(1) taxation of motor vehicles under 15-24-301(4) to the extent that subsection varies from the general provisions cited in this section; and

(2) livestock taxation governed by 81-7-104 and Title 81, chapter 7, part 2.

**15-24-303. Proration of tax on personal property -- refund.** (1) The tax on personal property brought, driven, coming into, or otherwise located in the state on or after the assessment date must be prorated according to the ratio that the remaining number of months in the year bears to the total number of months in the year. This section does not apply to motor vehicles taxed under Title 61, chapter 3, part 5, or to livestock subject to the per capita fee under 15-24-921.

(2) If property upon which taxes have been paid is removed from the state, the taxpayer may obtain a refund of a prorated portion of the taxes, subject to the requirements of 15-16-613.

**15-24-305. Taxation of motion picture and television commercial property.** Except as provided in 61-3-520, property used exclusively for filming motion pictures or television commercials and that remains in the state for a period exceeding 180 consecutive days in a calendar year is subject to assessment and taxation as all other property subject to property taxation.

## **Special Fuel**

**15-70-101.** Disposition of funds. (1) All taxes collected under this chapter must, in accordance with the provisions of 15-1-501, be placed in a highway revenue account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department of transportation. All interest and income earned on the account must be deposited to the credit of the account and any unexpended balance in the account must remain in the account. Those funds allocated to cities, towns, counties, and consolidated city-county governments in this section must, in accordance with the provisions of 15-1-501, be paid by the department of transportation from the state special revenue fund to the cities, towns, counties, and consolidated city-county governments.

(2) The amount of \$16,766,000 of the taxes collected under this chapter is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the department of transportation and must be allocated each fiscal year on a monthly basis to the counties, incorporated cities and towns, and consolidated city-county governments in Montana for construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and repair of rural roads and city or town streets and alleys, as provided in subsections (2)(a) through (2)(c):

(a) The amount of \$100,000 must be designated for the purposes and functions of the Montana local technical assistance transportation program in Bozeman.

(b) The amount of \$6,306,000 must be divided among the various counties in the following manner:

(i) 40% in the ratio that the rural road mileage in each county, exclusive of the national highway system and the primary system, bears to the total rural road mileage in the state, exclusive of the national highway system and the primary system;

(ii) 40% in the ratio that the rural population in each county outside incorporated cities and towns bears to the total rural population in the state outside incorporated cities and towns;

(iii) 20% in the ratio that the land area of each county bears to the total land area of the state.

(c) The amount of \$10,360,000 must be divided among the incorporated cities and towns in the following manner:

(i) 50% of the sum in the ratio that the population within the corporate limits of the city or town bears to the total population within corporate limits of all the cities and towns in Montana;

(ii) 50% in the ratio that the city or town street and alley mileage, exclusive of the national highway system and the primary system, within corporate limits bears to the total street and alley mileage, exclusive of the national highway system and primary system, within the corporate limits of all cities and towns in Montana.

(3) (a) For the purpose of allocating the funds in subsections (2)(b) and (2)(c) to a consolidated city-county government, each entity must be considered to have separate city and county boundaries. The city limit boundaries are the last official city limit boundaries for the former city unless revised boundaries based on the location of the urban area have been approved by the department of transportation and must be used to determine city and county populations and road mileages in the following manner:

(i) Percentage factors must be calculated to determine separate populations for the city and rural county by using the last official decennial federal census population figures that recognized an incorporated city and the rural county. The factors must be based on the ratio of the city to the rural county population, considering the total population in the county minus the population of any other incorporated city or town in the county.

(ii) The city and county populations must be calculated by multiplying the total county population, as determined by the latest official decennial census or the latest interim year population estimates from the Montana department of commerce as supplied by the United States

bureau of the census, minus the population of any other incorporated city or town in that county, by the factors established in subsection (3)(a)(i).

(b) The amount allocated by this method for the city and the county must be combined, and single monthly payments must be made to the consolidated city-county government.

(4) All funds allocated by this section to counties, cities, towns, and consolidated city-county governments must be used for the construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and repair of rural roads or city or town streets and alleys or for the share that the city, town, county, or consolidated city-county government might otherwise expend for proportionate matching of federal funds allocated for the construction of roads or streets that are part of the primary or secondary highway system or urban extensions to those systems. The governing body of a town or third-class city, as defined in 7-1-4111, may each year expend no more than 25% of the funds allocated to that town or third-class city for the purchase of capital equipment and supplies to be used for the maintenance and repair of town or third-class city streets and alleys.

(5) All funds allocated by this section to counties, cities, towns, and consolidated city-county governments must be disbursed to the lowest responsible bidder according to applicable bidding procedures followed in all cases in which the contract for construction, reconstruction, maintenance, or repair is in excess of \$25,000.

(6) For the purposes of this section in which distribution of funds is made on a basis related to population, the population must be determined annually for counties and biennially for cities according to the latest official decennial census or the latest interim year population estimates from the Montana department of commerce as supplied by the United States bureau of the census.

(7) For the purposes of this section in which determination of mileage is necessary for distribution of funds, it is the responsibility of the cities, towns, counties, and consolidated city-county governments to furnish to the department of transportation a yearly certified statement indicating the total mileage within their respective areas applicable to this chapter. All mileage submitted is subject to review and approval by the department of transportation.

(8) Except by a town or third-class city as provided in subsection (4), the funds authorized by this section may not be used for the purchase of capital equipment.

(9) Funds authorized by this section must be used for construction and maintenance programs.

**15-70-102. Allocation of funds -- participation in railroad grade crossing protection.** (1) The amount determined necessary may be allocated from the state special revenue fund, highway revenue account, for each fiscal year for expenditures and commitments made for participation by the department of transportation with railroads in construction of railroad grade crossing protection on any public highway or road, except those designated on the interstate, primary, or urban systems within the state. The department of transportation shall select those grade crossings in the state that, in the opinion of the department, are most in need of additional crossing protection and shall finance the cost of the improvements solely from this fund.

(2) Signal protection provided under this section is limited to electric or automatic flashing lights or gates, depending on the amount and nature of the hazards present at the crossing, and participation in construction of the signals must be on the same basis and under the same standards as are applicable and used in connection with protection of grade crossings on federal-aid roads within the state. The account may not be used for protection of grade crossings on the secondary system where the protection is considered necessary and when the cost is financed in part with federal-aid highway funds.

(3) In addition to the funds allocated, counties and cities may authorize the use of funds available to counties and cities under the provisions of 15-70-101 for participation in the installation in grade crossing protection within the county or city.

**15-70-103. Time of mailing and filing.** (1) Any claim, statement, remittance, or other document which is transmitted to this state through the United States mail shall be deemed filed and received by this state on the date shown by the post-office cancellation mark stamped upon the envelope or other appropriate wrapper containing it. Any claim, statement, remittance, or other document which is mailed but not received by this state or where received with a cancellation mark that is illegible, erroneous, or omitted shall be deemed filed and received on the date mailed if the sender establishes by competent evidence that the claim, statement, remittance, or other document was deposited in the United States mail on or before the date due for filing. In cases of such nonreceipt of a claim, statement, remittance, or other document, the sender must file with the state a duplicate within 30 days after written notification is given to the sender by the state of its nonreceipt of such claim, statement, remittance, or other document.

(2) If any claim, statement, remittance, or other document is sent by United States registered mail, certified mail, or certificate of mailing, a record authenticated by the United States post office of such registration, certification, or certificate shall be considered competent evidence that the report, claim, tax return, statement, remittance, or other document was mailed to the addressee, and the date of registration, certification, or certificate shall be deemed the postmarked date.

(3) If the date for filing any claim, statement, remittance, or other document falls upon a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the filing shall be considered timely if done on the next business day. Such reports shall be considered filed or received on the date or as provided in this chapter.

**15-70-104. Rules to be established by department.** (1) The department of transportation shall adopt, publish, and enforce the rules consistent with and necessary for carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

(2) The department may prescribe, adopt, and enforce reasonable rules relating to the administration and enforcement of:

- (a) part 2;
- (b) part 3;
- (c) part 7; and
- (d) the International Fuel Tax Agreement authorized by 15-70-121.

**15-70-105. Writeoff of collection of tax, penalty, or interest -- rules.** (1) (a) The department of transportation may write off the collection of any tax, penalty, or interest due to the state under this chapter whenever the department determines that it is not cost-effective for the department to attempt to collect the tax, penalty, or interest.

(b) The department shall establish procedures to determine the cost-effectiveness of collecting the tax, penalty, or interest.

(c) If the department writes off the collection of any tax, penalty, or interest, the department shall place in the taxpayer's file a written justification for the writeoff that includes a determination that attempted collection is not cost-effective.

(2) The department shall adopt rules to establish the procedures to carry out the purposes of this section.

**15-70-108. Payment of taxes by negotiable instrument.** The department of transportation is not bound by conditions pertaining to endorsement by the department that are placed on a negotiable instrument by the maker or drawer, tendered to the department for the payment of a tax liability or other liabilities, unless:

- (1) the debtor and the department have previously entered into a written agreement that specifies the amount of the debtor's liability; and
- (2) the amount tendered is in accordance with the written agreement.

**15-70-110. Authority to collect delinquent motor fuel taxes -- offset -- hearing.** (1) The department of transportation shall collect motor fuel taxes that are delinquent as determined under this chapter.

(2) To collect delinquent taxes after the time for appeal has expired, the department may direct the offset of tax refunds or other funds due the taxpayer from the state, except wages subject to the provisions of 25-13-614 and retirement benefits.

(3) As provided in 15-1-705, the taxpayer has the right to a hearing on the tax liability prior to any offset by the department.

(4) The department may file a claim for state funds on behalf of the taxpayer if a claim is required before funds are available for offset.

(5) The department shall provide the taxpayer with notice of the right to request a hearing under the contested case procedures of Title 2, chapter 4, on the matter of the offset action or the department's intent to file a claim on behalf of the taxpayer. A request for hearing must be made within 30 days of the date of the notice. If a hearing is requested, it must be held within 20 days of the request.

**15-70-111. Judicial review and appeals.** Any final written determination by the director of the department of transportation under this chapter may be appealed to the state tax appeal board which may, upon the record of a hearing, affirm, modify, or reverse the decision of the department. Any party aggrieved by the decision of the board may petition for judicial review by the district court of Lewis and Clark County, and an appeal may be taken from the judgment of the district court to the supreme court.

**15-70-112. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of transportation as provided for in 2-15-2501.

(2) "Electronic funds transfer" means any transfer of funds, other than a transaction originated by check, draft, or similar paper instrument, that is initiated through an electronic terminal, telephonic instrument, or computer or magnetic tape so as to order, instruct, or authorize a financial institution to debit or credit an account.

(3) "Taxes" means the taxes provided for in this chapter.

(4) "Total remittance" means taxes, interest, and penalties collected under this chapter and cleanup fees collected by the department as provided in 75-11-314.

**15-70-113. Total remittance payable by electronic funds transfer.** (1) Total remittance due the state may be paid by electronic funds transfer.

(2) If the payment of total remittance is by electronic funds transfer under this section and the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the payment must be made on the first business day following the Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

(3) If the payment of the tax due on gasoline or special fuel pursuant to 15-70-205 and 15-70-344 is made by electronic funds transfer, the payment due date is 5 days after the 25th day of each calendar month.

**15-70-114. Electronic filing of tax returns and required information.** The department may require a person, including an importer, exporter, common carrier, private carrier, or contract carrier, who receives or dispenses fuel and who is licensed or not licensed under this chapter, to file tax returns and information required by the department in an approved, computer-generated, magnetic media data format.

**15-70-115. Rules.** The department shall adopt rules necessary to implement 15-70-112 through 15-70-115, including but not limited to rules:

(1) coordinating the filing of tax returns by electronic means with the payment of total remittance by electronic funds transfer;

(2) specifying the form and content of electronic funds transfer messages in order to ensure the proper receipt and crediting of the payment of total remittance; and



(3) specifying the form and content of information required by the department in an approved, computer-generated, magnetic media data format in order to ensure the proper receipt of the information.

**15-70-121. International Fuel Tax Agreement.** (1) The department of transportation may enter into the International Fuel Tax Agreement for audits, exchange of information, and collection and distribution of motor fuel taxes pertaining to users of motor fuel in fleets of motor vehicles operated or intended to operate across jurisdictional boundaries. The International Fuel Tax Agreement is not effective unless it is in writing and is signed by the department and the department has adopted rules implementing the agreement.

(2) The agreement may determine:

- (a) the base jurisdiction for motor fuel users;
- (b) motor fuel user records requirements;
- (c) audit procedures;
- (d) procedures for the exchange of information;
- (e) persons eligible for tax licensing;
- (f) the definition of qualified motor vehicles;
- (g) bonding requirements;
- (h) reporting requirements and periods;
- (i) uniform penalty and interest rates for late reporting or payment of taxes;
- (j) methods for collecting and forwarding of motor fuel taxes and penalties to another jurisdiction; and

(k) other provisions to facilitate the administration of the agreement.

(3) The department may, as required by the terms of the agreement, forward to officers of another jurisdiction any information in its possession relative to the manufacture, receipt, sale, use, transportation, or shipment of motor fuel. The department may disclose to officers of another jurisdiction the location of offices, motor vehicles, and other real and personal property of users of motor fuel.

(4) The agreement may provide each jurisdiction authority to audit the records of persons based in the jurisdiction to determine if the motor fuel taxes due each jurisdiction are properly reported and paid. Each jurisdiction shall forward the findings of the audits performed on persons based in the jurisdiction to each jurisdiction in which the person has taxable use of motor fuel. For a person not based in Montana who has taxable use of motor fuel in Montana, the department may serve the audit findings received from another jurisdiction in the form of an assessment on the person, as though an audit was conducted by the department.

(5) The agreement entered into pursuant to this section does not preclude the department from auditing the records of any person covered by the provisions of this chapter.

(6) If the specific requirements of the agreement, as the agreement reads on the effective date of adoption by the department, differ from the general provisions of this chapter or other rules promulgated by the department, the rules implementing the cooperative agreement prevail.

(7) The legal remedies for a person served with an order or assessment under this section are as prescribed in this chapter.

(8) As used in this section:

- (a) "agreement" means the International Fuel Tax Agreement provided for in this section; and
- (b) "motor fuel" means gasoline as defined in 15-70-201 and special fuel as defined in 15-70-301.

**15-70-122. Collection of fuel tax.** The department of transportation may establish procedures under the International Fuel Tax Agreement to provide for the billing, collection, and administration of fuel taxes for those owners who proportionally register their fleet vehicles through the department under 61-3-711 through 61-3-733.

**15-70-123. Report by unlicensed petroleum dealer -- definition -- penalty.** (1) The department of transportation may require a petroleum dealer who is not licensed by the department under Title 15, chapter 70, to file, within 30 days of the end of a quarter, on a form prescribed by the department a report of the amount of fuel received and sold during the quarter. The report must also contain other information as required by the department.

(2) As used in this section, "petroleum dealer" means a dealer who:

(a) is directly or indirectly engaged in delivering, transporting, or distributing gasoline, aviation gasoline, special fuel, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), or compressed natural gas (CNG) in this state; or

(b) offers or advertises to sell, refine, manufacture, or store gasoline, aviation gasoline, special fuel, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), or compressed natural gas (CNG) in this state.

(3) A petroleum dealer who fails to file the report required by subsection (1) shall be fined \$50 for the first offense, \$75 for the second offense, and \$100 for the third and each subsequent offense.

**15-70-124. Agreements with other governmental entities relating to collection of certain fuel taxes.** (1) The department of transportation may enter into agreements relating to the administration and taxation of gasoline, special fuels, and liquefied petroleum gas with state agencies of this state and other states, agencies of the federal government, and agencies of foreign governments and provinces.

(2) The agreements may cover audits, exchange of information, licensure of sellers and users, distribution, and other matters that the department considers necessary for the administration of the taxation of gasoline, special fuels, and liquefied petroleum gas. In an agreement, the department may not delegate powers to another governmental entity that involve levying fines, forfeitures, or penalties or that allow the other governmental entity to revoke or otherwise impair a license or permit issued by the department.

**15-70-125. Highway nonrestricted account.** There is a highway nonrestricted account in the state special revenue fund. All interest and penalties collected under this chapter, except those collected by a justice's court, must, in accordance with the provisions of 15-1-501, be placed in the highway nonrestricted account.

**15-70-301. (Temporary) Definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agricultural use" means use of special fuel by a person who earns income while engaging in the business of farming or ranching and who files farm or income reports for tax purposes as required by the United States internal revenue service.

(2) "Bond" means:

(a) a bond executed by a special fuel user as principal with a corporate surety qualified under the laws of Montana, payable to the state of Montana, and conditioned upon faithful performance of all requirements of this part, including the payment of all taxes, penalties, and other obligations of the special fuel user arising out of this part; or

(b) a deposit with the department by the special fuel user, under terms and conditions that the department may prescribe, of certificates of deposit or irrevocable letters of credit issued by a bank and insured by the federal deposit insurance corporation.

(3) "Bulk delivery" means placing special fuel not intended for resale in storage or containers. The term does not mean special fuel delivered into the supply tank of a motor vehicle.

(4) "Cardtrol" or "keylock" means a unique device intended to allow access to a special fuel dealer's unattended pump or dispensing unit for the purpose of delivery of special fuel to an authorized user of the unique device.

(5) "Department" means the department of transportation.

(6) (a) "Distributed" means, at the time that special fuel is withdrawn, the withdrawal from a storage tank, a refinery, or a terminal storage in this state for sale or use in this state or for the transportation other than by pipeline to another refinery in this state or a pipeline terminal in this state of the following:

(i) special fuel refined, produced, manufactured, or compounded in this state and placed in storage tanks in this state;

(ii) special fuel transferred from a refinery or pipeline terminal in this state and placed in tanks at the refinery or terminal; or

(iii) special fuel imported into this state and placed in storage at a refinery or pipeline terminal.

(b) When withdrawn from the storage tanks, refinery, or terminal, the special fuel may be distributed only by a person who is the holder of a valid distributor's license.

(c) Special fuel imported into this state, other than that special fuel placed in storage at a refinery or pipeline terminal, is considered to be distributed after it has arrived in and is brought to rest in this state.

(7) "Distributor" means:

(a) a person who engages in the business in this state of producing, refining, manufacturing, or compounding special fuel for sale, use, or distribution;

(b) an importer who imports special fuel for sale, use, or distribution;

(c) a person who engages in the wholesale distribution of special fuel in this state and chooses to become licensed to assume the Montana state special fuel tax liability; and

(d) an exporter.

(8) "Export" means to transport out of Montana, by any means other than in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle, special fuel received from a refinery or pipeline terminal within Montana.

(9) "Exporter" means a person who transports, other than in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle, special fuel received from a refinery or pipeline terminal in Montana to a destination outside Montana for sale, use, or consumption outside Montana.

(10) "Import" means to first receive special fuel into possession or custody after its arrival and coming to rest at a destination within the state or to first receive any special fuel shipped or transported into this state from a point of origin outside this state other than in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle.

(11) "Importer" means a person who transports or arranges for the transportation of special fuel into Montana for sale, use, or distribution.

(12) "Improperly imported fuel" means special fuel that is:

(a) consigned to a Montana destination and imported into the state without the distributor first having obtained a Montana special fuel distributor license as required in 15-70-341; or

(b) delivered, possessed, sold, or transferred in the state in any manner not authorized under Title 15, chapter 70.

(13) "Motor vehicle" means all vehicles that are operated upon the public highways or streets of this state and that are operated in whole or in part by the combustion of special fuel.

(14) "Person" includes any person, firm, association, joint-stock company, syndicate, partnership, or corporation. Whenever the term is used in any clause prescribing and imposing a fine or imprisonment, or both, as applied to a firm, association, syndicate, or partnership, it includes the partners or members and, as applied to joint-stock companies and corporations, the officers.

(15) "Public roads and highways of this state" means all streets, roads, highways, and related structures:

(a) built and maintained with appropriated funds of the United States, the state of Montana, or any political subdivision of the state;

(b) dedicated to public use;

(c) acquired by eminent domain, as provided in Title 60, chapter 4, or Title 70, chapter 30; or

(d) acquired by adverse use by the public, with jurisdiction having been assumed by the state or any political subdivision of the state.

(16) "Special fuel" means those combustible gases and liquids commonly referred to as diesel fuel or any other volatile liquid of less than 46 degrees A.P.I. (American petroleum institute) gravity test, except liquid petroleum gas, when actually sold for use in motor vehicles operating upon the public roads and highways within the state of Montana. The term special fuel includes all other types of additives when the additive is mixed or blended into special fuel, regardless of the additive's classifications or uses.

(17) "Special fuel dealer" means:

(a) a person in the business of handling special fuel who delivers any part of the fuel into the fuel supply tank or tanks of a motor vehicle not then owned or controlled by the person;

(b) a person who sells special fuel at a location unattended by the dealer through an unattended pump by use of a cardtrol, keylock, or similar device; or

(c) a person who provides a facility, with or without attended services, from which more than one special fuel user obtains special fuel for use in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle not then controlled by the dealer.

(18) (a) "Special fuel user" means a person who consumes in this state special fuel for the operation of motor vehicles owned or controlled by the person upon the highways of this state.

b) The term does not include the U.S. government, a state, a county, an incorporated city or town, or a school district of this state.

(19) "Use", when the term relates to a special fuel user, means the consumption by a special fuel user of special fuels in the operation of a motor vehicle on the highways of this state.

**15-70-301. (Effective on occurrence of contingency) Definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agricultural use" means use of special fuel by a person who earns income while engaging in the business of farming or ranching and who files farm or income reports for tax purposes as required by the United States internal revenue service.

(2) "Biodiesel" means:

(a) (i) a fuel sold for use in motor vehicles operating upon the public roads and highways within the state that contains at least 20% esterified vegetable oil, at least 10% alcohol, or an equivalent mixture of both oil and alcohol, with the balance being diesel fuel or any other petroleum-based volatile liquid of less than 46 degrees A.P.I. (American petroleum institute) gravity test and other additives; or

(ii) a monoalkyl ester that:

(A) is derived from domestically produced vegetable oils, renewable lipids, rendered animal fats, or any combination of those ingredients; and

(B) meets the requirements of ASTM PS 121, also known as the Provisional Specification for Biodiesel Fuel (B100) Blend Stock for Distillate Fuels, as adopted by the American society of testing and materials.

(b) Biodiesel is also known as "B-20".

(3) "Bond" means:

(a) a bond executed by a special fuel user as principal with a corporate surety qualified under the laws of Montana, payable to the state of Montana, and conditioned upon faithful performance of all requirements of this part, including the payment of all taxes, penalties, and other obligations of the special fuel user arising out of this part; or

(b) a deposit with the department by the special fuel user, under terms and conditions that the department may prescribe, of certificates of deposit or irrevocable letters of credit issued by a bank and insured by the federal deposit insurance corporation.

(4) "Bulk delivery" means placing special fuel not intended for resale in storage or containers. The term does not mean special fuel delivered into the supply tank of a motor vehicle.

(5) "Cardtrol" or "keylock" means a unique device intended to allow access to a special fuel dealer's unattended pump or dispensing unit for the purpose of delivery of special fuel to an authorized user of the unique device.

(6) "Department" means the department of transportation.

(7) (a) "Distributed" means, at the time that special fuel is withdrawn, the withdrawal from a storage tank, a refinery, or a terminal storage in this state for sale or use in this state or for the transportation other than by pipeline to another refinery in this state or a pipeline terminal in this state of the following:

(i) special fuel refined, produced, manufactured, or compounded in this state and placed in storage tanks in this state;

(ii) special fuel transferred from a refinery or pipeline terminal in this state and placed in tanks at the refinery or terminal; or

(iii) special fuel imported into this state and placed in storage at a refinery or pipeline terminal.

(b) When withdrawn from the storage tanks, refinery, or terminal, the special fuel may be distributed only by a person who is the holder of a valid distributor's license.

(c) Special fuel imported into this state, other than that special fuel placed in storage at a refinery or pipeline terminal, is considered to be distributed after it has arrived in and is brought to rest in this state.

(8) "Distributor" means:

(a) a person who engages in the business in this state of producing, refining, manufacturing, or compounding special fuel for sale, use, or distribution;

(b) an importer who imports special fuel for sale, use, or distribution;

(c) a person who engages in the wholesale distribution of special fuel in this state and chooses to become licensed to assume the Montana state special fuel tax liability; and

(d) an exporter.

(9) "Export" means to transport out of Montana, by any means other than in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle, special fuel received from a refinery or pipeline terminal within Montana.

(10) "Exporter" means a person who transports, other than in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle, special fuel received from a refinery or pipeline terminal in Montana to a destination outside Montana for sale, use, or consumption outside Montana.

(11) "Import" means to first receive special fuel into possession or custody after its arrival and coming to rest at a destination within the state or to first receive any special fuel shipped or transported into this state from a point of origin outside this state other than in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle.

(12) "Importer" means a person who transports or arranges for the transportation of special fuel into Montana for sale, use, or distribution.

(13) "Improperly imported fuel" means special fuel that is:

(a) consigned to a Montana destination and imported into the state without the distributor first having obtained a Montana special fuel distributor license as required in 15-70-341; or

(b) delivered, possessed, sold, or transferred in the state in any manner not authorized under Title 15, chapter 70.

(14) "Motor vehicle" means all vehicles that are operated upon the public highways or streets of this state and that are operated in whole or in part by the combustion of special fuel.

(15) "Person" includes any person, firm, association, joint-stock company, syndicate, partnership, or corporation. Whenever the term is used in any clause prescribing and imposing a fine or imprisonment, or both, as applied to a firm, association, syndicate, or partnership, it includes the partners or members and, as applied to joint-stock companies and corporations, the officers.

(16) "Public roads and highways of this state" means all streets, roads, highways, and related structures:

(a) built and maintained with appropriated funds of the United States, the state of Montana, or any political subdivision of the state;

(b) dedicated to public use;

(c) acquired by eminent domain, as provided in Title 60, chapter 4, or Title 70, chapter 30; or

(d) acquired by adverse use by the public, with jurisdiction having been assumed by the state or any political subdivision of the state.

(17) "Special fuel" means those combustible gases and liquids commonly referred to as diesel fuel or any other volatile liquid of less than 46 degrees A.P.I. (American petroleum institute) gravity test, except liquid petroleum gas, when actually sold for use in motor vehicles operating upon the public roads and highways within the state of Montana. The term special fuel includes biodiesel and additives of all

types when the additive is mixed or blended into special fuel, regardless of the additive's classifications or uses.

(18) "Special fuel dealer" means:

(a) a person in the business of handling special fuel who delivers any part of the fuel into the fuel supply tank or tanks of a motor vehicle not then owned or controlled by the person;

(b) a person who sells special fuel at a location unattended by the dealer through an unattended pump by use of a cardtrol, keylock, or similar device; or

(c) a person who provides a facility, with or without attended services, from which more than one special fuel user obtains special fuel for use in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle not then controlled by the dealer.

(19) (a) "Special fuel user" means a person who consumes in this state special fuel for the operation of motor vehicles owned or controlled by the person upon the highways of this state.

(b) The term does not include the U.S. government, a state, a county, an incorporated city or town, or a school district of this state.

(20) "Use", when the term relates to a special fuel user, means the consumption by a special fuel user of special fuels in the operation of a motor vehicle on the highways of this state. (Terminates June 30 of fourth year following date of occurrence of contingency--sec. 13, Ch. 568, L. 2001.)

**15-70-301. (Effective July 1 of fourth year following date of occurrence of contingency) Definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agricultural use" means use of special fuel by a person who earns income while engaging in the business of farming or ranching and who files farm income reports for tax purposes as required by the United States internal revenue service.

(2) "Bond" means:

(a) a bond executed by a special fuel user as principal with a corporate surety qualified under the laws of Montana, payable to the state of Montana, and conditioned upon faithful performance of all requirements of this part, including the payment of all taxes, penalties, and other obligations of the special fuel user arising out of this part; or

(b) a deposit with the department by the special fuel user, under terms and conditions that the department may prescribe, of certificates of deposit or irrevocable letters of credit issued by a bank and insured by the federal deposit insurance corporation.

(3) "Bulk delivery" means placing special fuel not intended for resale in storage or containers. The term does not mean special fuel delivered into the supply tank of a motor vehicle.

(4) "Cardtrol" or "keylock" means a unique device intended to allow access to a special fuel dealer's unattended pump or dispensing unit for the purpose of delivery of special fuel to an authorized user of the unique device.

(5) "Department" means the department of transportation.

(6) (a) "Distributed" means, at the time that special fuel is withdrawn, the withdrawal from a storage tank, a refinery, or a terminal storage in this state for sale or use in this state or for the transportation other than by pipeline to another refinery in this state or a pipeline terminal in this state of the following:

(i) special fuel refined, produced, manufactured, or compounded in this state and placed in storage tanks in this state;

(ii) special fuel transferred from a refinery or pipeline terminal in this state and placed in tanks at the refinery or terminal; or

(iii) special fuel imported into this state and placed in storage at a refinery or pipeline terminal.

(b) When withdrawn from the storage tanks, refinery, or terminal, the special fuel may be distributed only by a person who is the holder of a valid distributor's license.

(c) Special fuel imported into this state, other than that special fuel placed in storage at a refinery or pipeline terminal, is considered to be distributed after it has arrived in and is brought to rest in this state.

- (7) "Distributor" means:
- (a) a person who engages in the business in this state of producing, refining, manufacturing, or compounding special fuel for sale, use, or distribution;
  - (b) an importer who imports special fuel for sale, use, or distribution;
  - (c) a person who engages in the wholesale distribution of special fuel in this state and chooses to become licensed to assume the Montana state special fuel tax liability; and
  - (d) an exporter.
- (8) "Export" means to transport out of Montana, by any means other than in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle, special fuel received from a refinery or pipeline terminal within Montana.
- (9) "Exporter" means a person who transports, other than in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle, special fuel received from a refinery or pipeline terminal in Montana to a destination outside Montana for sale, use, or consumption outside Montana.
- (10) "Import" means to first receive special fuel into possession or custody after its arrival and coming to rest at a destination within the state or to first receive any special fuel shipped or transported into this state from a point of origin outside this state other than in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle.
- (11) "Importer" means a person who transports or arranges for the transportation of special fuel into Montana for sale, use, or distribution.
- (12) "Improperly imported fuel" means special fuel that is:
- (a) consigned to a Montana destination and imported into the state without the distributor first having obtained a Montana special fuel distributor license as required in 15-70-341; or
  - (b) delivered, possessed, sold, or transferred in the state in any manner not authorized under Title 15, chapter 70.
- (13) "Motor vehicle" means all vehicles that are operated upon the public highways or streets of this state and that are operated in whole or in part by the combustion of special fuel.
- (14) "Person" includes any person, firm, association, joint-stock company, syndicate, partnership, or corporation. Whenever the term is used in any clause prescribing and imposing a fine or imprisonment, or both, as applied to a firm, association, syndicate, or partnership, it includes the partners or members and, as applied to joint-stock companies and corporations, the officers.
- (15) "Public roads and highways of this state" means all streets, roads, highways, and related structures:
- (a) built and maintained with appropriated funds of the United States, the state of Montana, or any political subdivision of the state;
  - (b) dedicated to public use;
  - (c) acquired by eminent domain, as provided in Title 60, chapter 4, or Title 70, chapter 30; or
  - (d) acquired by adverse use by the public, with jurisdiction having been assumed by the state or any political subdivision of the state.
- (16) "Special fuel" means those combustible gases and liquids commonly referred to as diesel fuel or any other volatile liquid of less than 46 degrees A.P.I. (American petroleum institute) gravity test, except liquid petroleum gas, when actually sold for use in motor vehicles operating upon the public roads and highways within the state of Montana. The term special fuel includes all other types of additives when the additive is mixed or blended into special fuel, regardless of the additive's classifications or uses.
- (17) "Special fuel dealer" means:
- (a) a person in the business of handling special fuel who delivers any part of the fuel into the fuel supply tank or tanks of a motor vehicle not then owned or controlled by the person;
  - (b) a person who sells special fuel at a location unattended by the dealer through an unattended pump by use of a cardrol, keylock, or similar device; or
  - (c) a person who provides a facility, with or without attended services, from which more than one special fuel user obtains special fuel for use in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle not then controlled by the dealer.
- (18) (a) "Special fuel user" means a person who consumes in this state special fuel for the operation of motor vehicles owned or controlled by the person upon the highways of this state.

(b) The term does not include the U.S. government, a state, a county, an incorporated city or town, or a school district of this state.

(19) "Use", when the term relates to a special fuel user, means the consumption by a special fuel user of special fuels in the operation of a motor vehicle on the highways of this state.

**15-70-302. Special fuel user's permits required -- exceptions.** (1) (a) A special fuel user shall obtain a special fuel user's permit annually from the department, prior to the use of special fuel:

(i) for the operation of a motor vehicle or vehicles in this state in excess of 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight used in an interstate operation;

(ii) by a special fuel user awarded a contract in accordance with 15-70-321; or

(iii) in a vehicle permitted pursuant to an agreement adopted pursuant to 15-70-121.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (3), a special fuel user shall at all times display the original or a reproduced copy of the permit in each special fuel vehicle operated by the special fuel user upon the public roads and highways. The permit or copy must be exhibited for inspection on request of any motor carrier services division employee, Montana highway patrol officer, authorized employee of the department, or any other law enforcement officer. The special fuel user is responsible for reproducing clear and legible copies of the permit.

(2) Any out-of-state user who operates a special fuel vehicle solely for recreation or for religious, charitable, educational, or other eleemosynary purposes shall secure a special fuel user's courtesy vehicle permit. The permit is not transferable and is valid for 90 days. Permits must be issued at no cost to the user by the department, scale house personnel, and gross vehicle weight patrol crews. The department may require a user who has fuel capacity in excess of 30 gallons to file a report and pay the tax on fuel used in Montana on which the tax has not been paid.

(3) A special fuel user need not display the original or reproduced copy of the special fuel user's permit, as required by subsection (1), if the special fuel user is registered and licensed pursuant to the International Fuel Tax Agreement, as authorized by 15-70-121, and the vehicle displays a license or decal issued pursuant to the agreement.

**15-70-303. Application for permit.** (1) Application for a special fuel user's permit must be made to the department unless otherwise provided in this part.

(2) The application must be filed upon a form prepared and furnished by the department. The application must contain information the department considers necessary.

**15-70-304. (Temporary) Bonding, release of surety, and additional bond.** (1) Except as provided in this section, a special fuel user's permit may not be issued to a person or continued in force unless the person has furnished a bond, as defined in 15-70-301 and in a form as the department may require, to secure its compliance with this part and the payment of any taxes, interest, and penalties due and to become due under this part. The department shall waive the bond requirement of a special fuel user not subject to the provisions of subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b).

(2) The total amount of the bond or bonds required of a special fuel user must be equivalent to twice the special fuel user's estimated quarterly tax payments as provided in this part, determined as the department considers proper; however, the total amount of the bond or bonds may not be less than:

(a) \$5,000 for a special fuel user awarded a contract in accordance with 15-70-321; and

(b) \$500 for any other special fuel user who:

(i) requests a special fuel user's permit to be reissued after being canceled for cause; or

(ii) fails to file timely reports and pay tax due as required by 15-70-325 and 15-70-327.

(3) A surety on a bond furnished by a special fuel user, as provided in this section, must be released and discharged from any liability to the state accruing on the bond after the expiration of 30 days from the date when the surety has lodged with the department a written request to be released and discharged, but this provision may not operate to relieve, release, or discharge the surety from any liability already accrued or that accrues before the expiration of the 30-day period. The department shall,



promptly upon receiving a release request, notify the special fuel user who furnished the bond, and unless the special fuel user, on or before the expiration of the 30-day period, files a new bond in accordance with the requirements of this section or makes a deposit in lieu of a bond as provided in 15-70-301(2), the department shall cancel the special fuel user's permit.

(4) The department may require a special fuel user to give a new or additional surety bond or to deposit additional securities of the character specified in 15-70-301(2) if, in its opinion, the security of the surety bond previously filed by the special fuel user or the market value of the properties deposited as security by the special fuel user becomes impaired or inadequate. Upon failure of the special fuel user to give a new additional surety bond or to deposit additional securities within 30 days after being requested to do so by the department, the department shall cancel the permit.

**15-70-304. (Effective on occurrence of contingency) Bonding, release of surety, and additional bond.** (1) Except as provided in this section, a special fuel user's permit may not be issued to a person or continued in force unless the person has furnished a bond, as defined in 15-70-301 and in a form as the department may require, to secure its compliance with this part and the payment of any taxes, interest, and penalties due and to become due under this part. The department shall waive the bond requirement of a special fuel user not subject to the provisions of subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b).

(2) The total amount of the bond or bonds required of a special fuel user must be equivalent to twice the special fuel user's estimated quarterly tax payments as provided in this part, determined as the department considers proper; however, the total amount of the bond or bonds may not be less than:

- (a) \$5,000 for a special fuel user awarded a contract in accordance with 15-70-321; and
- (b) \$500 for any other special fuel user who:
  - (i) requests a special fuel user's permit to be reissued after being canceled for cause; or
  - (ii) fails to file timely reports and pay tax due as required by 15-70-325 and 15-70-327.

(3) A surety on a bond furnished by a special fuel user, as provided in this section, must be released and discharged from any liability to the state accruing on the bond after the expiration of 30 days from the date when the surety has lodged with the department a written request to be released and discharged, but this provision may not operate to relieve, release, or discharge the surety from any liability already accrued or that accrues before the expiration of the 30-day period. The department shall, promptly upon receiving a release request, notify the special fuel user who furnished the bond, and unless the special fuel user, on or before the expiration of the 30-day period, files a new bond in accordance with the requirements of this section or makes a deposit in lieu of a bond as provided in 15-70-301(3), the department shall cancel the special fuel user's permit.

(4) The department may require a special fuel user to give a new or additional surety bond or to deposit additional securities of the character specified in 15-70-301(3) if, in its opinion, the security of the surety bond previously filed by the special fuel user or the market value of the properties deposited as security by the special fuel user becomes impaired or inadequate. Upon failure of the special fuel user to give a new additional surety bond or to deposit additional securities within 30 days after being requested to do so by the department, the department shall cancel the permit. (Terminates June 30 of fourth year following date of occurrence of contingency--sec. 13, Ch. 568, L. 2001.)

**15-70-304. (Effective July 1 of fourth year following date of occurrence of contingency) Bonding, release of surety, and additional bond.** (1) Except as provided in this section, a special fuel user's permit may not be issued to a person or continued in force unless the person has furnished a bond, as defined in 15-70-301 and in a form as the department may require, to secure its compliance with this part and the payment of any taxes, interest, and penalties due and to become due under this part. The department shall waive the bond requirement of a special fuel user not subject to the provisions of subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b).

(2) The total amount of the bond or bonds required of a special fuel user must be equivalent to twice the special fuel user's estimated quarterly tax payments as provided in this part, determined as the department considers proper; however, the total amount of the bond or bonds may not be less than:

- (a) \$5,000 for a special fuel user awarded a contract in accordance with 15-70-321; and
- (b) \$500 for any other special fuel user who:
  - (i) requests a special fuel user's permit to be reissued after being canceled for cause; or
  - (ii) fails to file timely reports and pay tax due as required by 15-70-325 and 15-70-327.

(3) A surety on a bond furnished by a special fuel user, as provided in this section, must be released and discharged from any liability to the state accruing on the bond after the expiration of 30 days from the date when the surety has lodged with the department a written request to be released and discharged, but this provision may not operate to relieve, release, or discharge the surety from any liability already accrued or that accrues before the expiration of the 30-day period. The department shall, promptly upon receiving a release request, notify the special fuel user who furnished the bond, and unless the special fuel user, on or before the expiration of the 30-day period, files a new bond in accordance with the requirements of this section or makes a deposit in lieu of a bond as provided in 15-70-301(2), the department shall cancel the special fuel user's permit.

(4) The department may require a special fuel user to give a new or additional surety bond or to deposit additional securities of the character specified in 15-70-301(2) if, in its opinion, the security of the surety bond previously filed by the special fuel user or the market value of the properties deposited as security by the special fuel user becomes impaired or inadequate. Upon failure of the special fuel user to give a new additional surety bond or to deposit additional securities within 30 days after being requested to do so by the department, the department shall cancel the permit.

**15-70-305. Issuance of permit -- grounds for refusal -- hearing.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), upon receipt of the application and bond in proper form, the department shall issue to the applicant a permit to operate as a special fuel user. Each special fuel user's permit is valid until suspended or revoked for cause or otherwise canceled.

(2) If the special fuel user's permit is surrendered or revoked, the special fuel user shall pay a reissuance fee of \$100.

(3) The department may refuse to issue a special fuel user's permit to any person:

(a) who formerly held a permit that, prior to the time of filing application, has been revoked for cause;

(b) who is not the real party in interest and the permit of the real party in interest has been revoked for cause prior to the time of filing the application; or

(c) upon other sufficient cause being shown.

(4) Before refusal to issue a permit, the department shall grant the applicant a hearing and shall grant the applicant at least 10 days' written notice of the time and place of hearing.

(5) A special fuel user's permit is not transferable.

**15-70-306. Revocation, suspension, and cancellation.** (1) The department may revoke the permit of any special fuel user or any special fuel vehicle permit for reasonable cause. Before revoking a permit, the department shall notify the permittee of its intention, by certified mail addressed to the permittee's last-known address shown in the files of the department, requiring the permittee to appear before the department on a day and hour specified in the notice, not more than 30 days or less than 10 days from date of notice, and show cause, if any, why the permit should not be revoked. However, at any time prior to and pending the hearing, the department may in the exercise of reasonable discretion suspend the permit.

(2) Upon revocation of a permit by the department, the holder shall immediately surrender the permit to the department for cancellation.

**15-70-307. Surrender of permit upon use discontinuance.** The department shall cancel any special fuel user permit immediately upon surrender by the holder.

**15-70-311. Special fuel user's temporary trip permits -- nonresident agricultural harvesting equipment special fuel permit.** (1) Any person operating a special fuel-powered vehicle over 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight upon the public roads and highways of this state who fails or neglects to carry in the vehicle a valid special fuel vehicle permit, as provided by 15-70-302, is required to purchase a special fuel user's temporary trip permit. The permits must be issued by motor carrier services division employees, Montana highway patrol officers, and other enforcing agents that the department may prescribe by order or rule.

(2) Any nonresident upon entering the state with agricultural harvesting equipment that is over 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight and that is powered by special fuel and operating upon the public roads and highways of this state who fails or neglects to carry in or on equipment a valid special fuel vehicle permit, as provided by 15-70-302, is required to purchase a nonresident agricultural harvesting equipment special fuel permit. The permit must be issued by motor carrier services division employees, Montana highway patrol officers, and other enforcing agents that the department may prescribe by order or rule.

**15-70-312. Fees for temporary permits -- duration of temporary permits.** (1) Temporary special fuel permits cost \$30. The permit is valid for a period of time not to exceed 72 hours and is automatically void if the vehicle leaves the state of Montana during the 72-hour period.

(2) A temporary special fuel permit for a nonresident operating agricultural harvesting equipment costs \$30 per unit for the calendar year in which the fee is collected. The permit is not transferable. A unit is defined as:

- (a) one truck suitable for hauling commodities;
- (b) one harvesting machine; and
- (c) pickup trucks and any other accessory vehicles.

(3) All fees collected must be remitted to the department or deposited directly in the state special revenue fund for the department.

**15-70-313. Department to furnish forms.** Special fuel temporary permits, nonresident temporary permits, remittance forms, and any other necessary papers for the accounting and enforcement of 15-70-311 through 15-70-314 shall be furnished by the department.

**15-70-314. Penalty for operation without temporary permit -- compliance bond -- policy continued.** (1) Any unlicensed user of special fuel vehicles operating within the state of Montana without making application for said temporary permit and paying the specified fee shall be guilty of committing a misdemeanor and upon conviction be fined \$50.

(2) Nothing contained herein shall affect the existing policy of accepting a compliance bond to be retained for use by the department and to be imposed at the discretion of the enforcing agency.

**15-70-330. Special fuel penalties.** (1) In the case of a special fuel user who refuses or fails to file a return required by this part within the time prescribed by 15-70-103 and 15-70-325, there is imposed a penalty of \$25 or a sum equal to 10% of the tax due, whichever is greater, together with interest at the rate of 1% on the tax due for each calendar month or fraction of a month during which the refusal or failure continues. However, if any special fuel user establishes to the satisfaction of the department that the failure to file a return within the time prescribed was due to reasonable cause, the department shall waive the penalty provided by this section.

(2) Whenever a special fuel user files a return but fails to pay in whole or in part the tax due under this part, interest at the rate of 1% per month or fraction of a month from the date on which the tax was due to the date of payment in full must be added to the amount due and unpaid.

(3) (a) A special fuel user may not use dyed special fuel to operate a motor vehicle upon the public roads and highways of this state unless the fuel is subject to taxation under 15-70-321(1)(b) or the

use is permitted pursuant to rules adopted under subsection (3)(b). The purposeful or knowing use of dyed special fuel in a motor vehicle operating upon the public roads and highways of this state in violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500 upon conviction for the first offense, not to exceed \$1,000 upon conviction for the second offense, and not to exceed \$2,000 for each subsequent conviction. Each use is a separate offense.

(b) The department shall adopt and enforce reasonable rules for the movement of off-highway vehicles traveling from one location to another on public highways, public roads, or streets when using dyed fuel or nontaxed fuel.

(4) The operator of the vehicle is liable for the tax imposed in 15-70-321. If the operator refuses or fails to pay the tax, in whole or in part, the seller of the special fuel is jointly and severally liable for the tax imposed under 15-70-321 and for the penalties described in this section if the seller knows or has reason to know that the fuel will be used for a taxable purpose.

**15-70-341. (Temporary) License and security of special fuel distributors -- denial or revocation of license -- reissuance fee.** (1) (a) Each special fuel distributor, including an exporter and importer, as those terms are defined in 15-70-301, prior to the commencement of doing business, shall file:

(i) an application for a license with the department, on forms prescribed and furnished by the department, setting forth the information that may be requested by the department; and

(ii) security with the department in an amount to be determined by the department.

(b) (i) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b)(ii), the required amount of security may not exceed twice the estimated amount of special fuel taxes the distributor will pay to this state each month.

(ii) The minimum required security for a distributor who imports or exports special fuel, or both, is \$25,000.

(c) Upon approval of the application, the department shall issue to the distributor a nonassignable license that is in force until surrendered or revoked.

(2) The department may deny the issuance of a special fuel distributor license or revoke a special fuel distributor license if it determines that the applicant or distributor:

(a) has violated any provision of this chapter or any rule of the department relating to gasoline or special fuel, or both;

(b) fails to provide the security required by the department;

(c) has had a distributor license revoked or denied by the department or another jurisdiction within a 3-year period;

(d) is not in compliance with motor fuels laws in other jurisdictions; or

(e) fails to pay the special fuel license tax.

(3) If an application for a special fuel distributor license is denied or revoked, the applicant or distributor has the right to appeal the department's decision pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, part 6.

(4) If the distributor's license is surrendered or revoked, the distributor shall pay a reissuance fee of \$100.

(5) Failure to obtain a special fuel distributor license as required in this section subjects the distributor to the provisions of 15-70-357 allowing for the seizure, confiscation, and possible forfeiture of the fuel.

(6) As used in this section, "security" means:

(a) a bond executed by a distributor as principal with a corporate surety qualified under the laws of Montana, payable to the state of Montana, and conditioned upon faithful performance of all requirements of this part, including the payment of all taxes and penalties; or

(b) (i) a deposit made by the distributor with the department, under the conditions that the department may prescribe; or

(ii) certificates of deposit or irrevocable letters of credit issued by a bank and insured by the federal deposit insurance corporation.

(7) The owner of a commercial motor vehicle that is engaged in transporting special fuel for a distributor is not subject to the provisions of this section.

**15-70-341. (Effective on occurrence of contingency) License and security of special fuel distributors -- denial or revocation of license -- reissuance fee.** (1) (a) Each special fuel distributor, including an exporter and importer, as those terms are defined in 15-70-301, prior to the commencement of doing business, shall file:

(i) an application for a license with the department, on forms prescribed and furnished by the department, setting forth the information that may be requested by the department; and

(ii) security with the department in an amount to be determined by the department.

(b) (i) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b)(ii), the required amount of security may not exceed twice the estimated amount of special fuel taxes the distributor will pay to this state each month.

(ii) The minimum required security for a distributor who imports or exports special fuel, or both, is \$25,000.

(c) Upon approval of the application, the department shall issue to the distributor a nonassignable license that is in force until surrendered or revoked.

(2) The department may deny the issuance of a special fuel distributor license or revoke a special fuel distributor license if it determines that the applicant or distributor:

(a) has violated any provision of this chapter or any rule of the department relating to gasoline or special fuel, or both;

(b) fails to provide the security required by the department;

(c) has had a distributor license revoked or denied by the department or another jurisdiction within a 3-year period;

(d) is not in compliance with motor fuels laws in other jurisdictions; or

(e) fails to pay the special fuel license tax.

(3) If an application for a special fuel distributor license is denied or revoked, the applicant or distributor has the right to appeal the department's decision pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, part 6.

(4) If the distributor's license is surrendered or revoked, the distributor shall pay a reissuance fee of \$100.

(5) Failure to obtain a special fuel distributor license as required in this section subjects the distributor to the provisions of 15-70-357 allowing for the seizure, confiscation, and possible forfeiture of the fuel.

(6) As used in this section, "security" means:

(a) a bond executed by a distributor as principal with a corporate surety qualified under the laws of Montana, payable to the state of Montana, and conditioned upon faithful performance of all requirements of this part, including the payment of all taxes and penalties; or

(b) (i) a deposit made by the distributor with the department, under the conditions that the department may prescribe; or

(ii) certificates of deposit or irrevocable letters of credit issued by a bank and insured by the federal deposit insurance corporation.

(7) The owner of a commercial motor vehicle that is engaged in transporting special fuel for a distributor is not subject to the provisions of this section.

(8) A distributor who blends biodiesel must be licensed with the department. If the distributor cannot be licensed, the distributor is required to buy preblended biodiesel. (Terminates June 30 of fourth year following date of occurrence of contingency--sec. 13, Ch. 568, L. 2001.)

**15-70-341. (Effective July 1 of fourth year following date of occurrence of contingency) License and security of special fuel distributors -- denial or revocation of license -- reissuance fee.** (1) (a) Each special fuel distributor, including an exporter and importer, as those terms are defined in 15-70-301, prior to the commencement of doing business, shall file:

- (i) an application for a license with the department, on forms prescribed and furnished by the department, setting forth the information that may be requested by the department; and
  - (ii) security with the department in an amount to be determined by the department.
- (b) (i) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b)(ii), the required amount of security may not exceed twice the estimated amount of special fuel taxes the distributor will pay to this state each month.
- (ii) The minimum required security for a distributor who imports or exports special fuel, or both, is \$25,000.
- (c) Upon approval of the application, the department shall issue to the distributor a nonassignable license that is in force until surrendered or revoked.
- (2) The department may deny the issuance of a special fuel distributor license or revoke a special fuel distributor license if it determines that the applicant or distributor:
- (a) has violated any provision of this chapter or any rule of the department relating to gasoline or special fuel, or both;
  - (b) fails to provide the security required by the department;
  - (c) has had a distributor license revoked or denied by the department or another jurisdiction within a 3-year period;
  - (d) is not in compliance with motor fuels laws in other jurisdictions; or
  - (e) fails to pay the special fuel license tax.
- (3) If an application for a special fuel distributor license is denied or revoked, the applicant or distributor has the right to appeal the department's decision pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, part 6.
- (4) If the distributor's license is surrendered or revoked, the distributor shall pay a reissuance fee of \$100.
- (5) Failure to obtain a special fuel distributor license as required in this section subjects the distributor to the provisions of 15-70-357 allowing for the seizure, confiscation, and possible forfeiture of the fuel.
- (6) As used in this section, "security" means:
- (a) a bond executed by a distributor as principal with a corporate surety qualified under the laws of Montana, payable to the state of Montana, and conditioned upon faithful performance of all requirements of this part, including the payment of all taxes and penalties; or
  - (b) (i) a deposit made by the distributor with the department, under the conditions that the department may prescribe; or
  - (ii) certificates of deposit or irrevocable letters of credit issued by a bank and insured by the federal deposit insurance corporation.
- (7) The owner of a commercial motor vehicle that is engaged in transporting special fuel for a distributor is not subject to the provisions of this section.

**15-70-343. Special fuel license tax -- rate.** (1) Each distributor shall pay to the department of transportation a license tax for the privilege of engaging in and carrying on business in this state. The license tax is in the amount imposed under 15-70-321 for each gallon of special fuel that is distributed by the distributor within the state and upon which the special fuel license tax has not been paid by any other distributor.

- (2) Special fuel may not be included in the measure of the distributor's license tax if it is:
- (a) dyed by injector at a refinery or terminal for off-highway use; or
  - (b) sold for export, unless the distributor is not licensed and is not paying the tax to the state where the fuel is destined.

**15-70-344. Distributor's statement and payment -- confidentiality.** (1) Each distributor shall, not later than the 25th day of each calendar month, except as provided in 15-70-113(3), render to the department of transportation a signed statement that specifies all special fuel distributed and received by the distributor in this state during the preceding calendar month and that contains other information the department may reasonably require in order to administer the special fuel license tax law. The statement

must be accompanied by a payment in an amount equal to the tax imposed by 15-70-343, less any refund credit issued under 15-70-356 and less 1% of the total tax that may be deducted by the distributor as an allowance for collection.

(2) A distributor engaged in or carrying on a business at more than one location in this state may include all places of business in one statement.

(3) The department or a deputy, assistant, agent, clerk, or other employee of the department may not publish or otherwise disseminate information contained in a statement required under this section in a form that allows identification of a distributor or a purchaser of special fuel. This section does not prohibit:

(a) the delivery to a distributor or a distributor's authorized representative of a certified copy of any return or report filed in connection with the distributor's tax;

(b) the inspection by the attorney general or by another legal representative of the state of the report or return of a distributor who brings an action to set aside or review the tax based on the report or return or against whom an action or proceeding has been instituted in accordance with the provisions of Title 15;

(c) the publication of statistics classified to prevent the identification of particular reports or returns and the items in the reports or returns;

(d) the inspection by the commissioner of internal revenue of the United States or by the proper officer of any state imposing a tax on special fuel or by any representative of either officer of the report or return of any distributor or the furnishing to the officer or authorized representative of an abstract of the report or return, but permission must be granted or information must be furnished to the officer or the officer's representative only if the statutes of the United States or the other state grant substantially similar privileges to the proper officer of this state charged with the administration of this chapter or in compliance with 15-70-121 and 15-70-122; or

(e) the compliance of the department with any order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

**15-70-345. Recordkeeping requirements.** Each distributor or any other person dealing in, transporting, receiving, or storing special fuel shall keep for a period not to exceed 3 years the records, receipts, and invoices and any other pertinent papers and information that the department of transportation may require.

**15-70-348. Invoice of distributors.** Each distributor in this state shall at the time of delivery, except when authorized by the department of transportation, issue to the purchaser an invoice that states the number of gallons of special fuel covered by the invoice and other information the department may require.

**15-70-351. Information reports -- penalty -- confidentiality.** (1) A person receiving special fuel, including an importer, exporter, common carrier, private carrier, and contract carrier of property who hauls, receives, transports, or ships special fuel from any other state or foreign country into this state or from this state to any other state or foreign country or from any refinery or pipeline terminal in this state to another point within this state shall submit to the department of transportation, upon its request and within the time specified, a statement showing the number of gallons of special fuel contained in each shipment in interstate commerce and the movement of the products from any refinery or pipeline terminal located within this state to another point within this state during the preceding calendar month, the names and addresses of the consignor and the consignee, and the date of delivery to the consignee.

(2) A person, except a licensed distributor, importer, or exporter, who refuses or fails to file a statement as required in this section is subject to a penalty of \$100 for each failure or refusal.

(3) The department or a deputy, assistant, agent, clerk, or other employee of the department may not publish or otherwise disseminate information contained in a statement required under this section in a form that allows identification of a distributor or a purchaser of special fuel. This section may not be construed to prohibit:

(a) the delivery to a person or the person's authorized representative of a certified copy of any report filed under subsection (1);

(b) the inspection by the attorney general or other legal representative of the state of the report or statement of a person if a person or distributor brings an action to set aside or review the tax based on the report or statement or if an action or proceeding has been instituted in accordance with the provisions of Title 15 against that person or distributor;

(c) the publication of statistics classified to prevent the identification of particular reports or statements and the items in the reports or statements;

(d) the inspection by the commissioner of internal revenue of the United States or by the proper officer of any state imposing a tax on special fuel or by the authorized representative of either officer of the report or statement of any person or the furnishing to the officer or authorized representative of an abstract of the report or statement, but permission may be granted or information may be furnished to the officer or the officer's representative only if the statutes of the United States or the other state grant substantially similar privileges to the proper officer of this state charged with the administration of this chapter or in compliance with 15-70-121 and 15-70-122; or

(e) the compliance of the department with any order of a court of competent jurisdiction.



## **Motor Carrier Safety Enforcement Authority**

**44-1-1005. Motor carriers safety -- enforcement -- violations.** (1) The department of justice shall adopt, by rule, standards for safety of operations of:

- (a) any for-hire motor carrier or any private motor carrier;
- (b) any motor vehicle or vehicle combination used in interstate commerce that has a gross vehicle weight rating, gross combination weight rating, gross vehicle weight, or gross combination weight, whichever is greater, of 10,001 pounds or more;
- (c) any motor vehicle or vehicle combination used in intrastate commerce that has a gross vehicle weight rating, gross combination weight rating, gross vehicle weight, or gross combination weight, whichever is greater, of 26,001 pounds or more and that is not a farm vehicle operating solely in Montana;
- (d) any motor vehicle that is designed or used to transport at least 16 passengers, including the driver, and is not used to transport passengers for compensation;
- (e) any motor vehicle that is designed or used to transport at least nine passengers, including the driver, for compensation; or
- (f) any motor vehicle that is used to transport hazardous materials of a type or quantity that requires the vehicle to be marked or placarded in accordance with federal hazardous materials regulations in 49 CFR, part 172.

(2) Standards of safety adopted under this section must substantially comply, within allowed tolerance guidelines, to the federal motor carrier safety regulations and the federal hazardous material regulations as applied to motor carriers and vehicles transporting passengers or property in commerce.

(3) The highway patrol has responsibility for enforcement of standards adopted pursuant to this section. Inspection of a vehicle based in Montana may, at the request of the carrier, be made at the place of business or domicile of the vehicle owner or, if that is not a practicable inspection site, at a designated location and at a mutually agreeable time. After inspection, a vehicle found to conform to the standards adopted pursuant to this section is entitled to certification and identification to exempt it from further safety inspection until the next required periodic inspection or until a nonconformity with standards is apparent. This section does not prohibit the inspection of a motor vehicle, as provided for by this section, at a safe location on a public road.

(4) The department shall cooperate with the department of transportation to ensure minimum duplication and maximum coordination of enforcement effort.

(5) The department may designate and train civilian employees as inspectors within the motor carrier safety assistance program. Each civilian inspector is a peace officer whose jurisdiction is limited to enforcement of violations of Title 61, chapters 5 and 9, and any standards adopted pursuant to this section. Each employee designated as a peace officer may:

- (a) issue citations and make arrests;
- (b) issue summonses;
- (c) accept bail;
- (d) serve warrants of arrest;
- (e) make reasonable inspections of cargo carried by commercial motor vehicles;
- (f) make reasonable safety inspections of commercial motor vehicles; and
- (g) require production of documents relating to the cargo, driver, routing, maintenance, or ownership of commercial motor vehicles.

(6) Violations of the standards adopted pursuant to this section are punishable as provided in 61-9-512, and the court, upon conviction or forfeiture of bail that is not vacated, shall forward a record of conviction or forfeiture to the department within 5 days in accordance with 61-11-101.

(7) As used in this section, the terms "for-hire motor carrier", "private motor carrier", "gross vehicle weight rating", and "gross combination weight rating" have the same meaning as provided in 49 CFR 390.5.

## **Ports of Entry**

**60-2-301. Ports of entry and checking stations authorized.** To augment and help make more efficient and effective the enforcement of certain laws of the state, the department shall establish temporary or permanent ports of entry or checking stations upon highways in the state at places which the department considers necessary and advisable.

**60-2-303. Cooperation in use of ports of entry and checking stations.** The department shall cooperate with other agencies and political subdivisions of this state in the use of the ports of entry or checking stations so that maximum use can be made of the facilities in enforcement of the laws of this state.

**60-2-311. Interstate agreements for tax and fee collection and port operation.** The department may negotiate and enter into a bilateral agreement with an official of an adjoining state or province to provide for the collection by either party state or province of highway user fees, registration fees, permit fees, fuel taxes, or any other fees and taxes that may be prescribed by law or rule. An agreement may further provide for the construction and joint operation of ports of entry along state borders.

## **Definitions**

**61-1-101. Definitions.** Unless the context indicates otherwise, the words and phrases defined in this chapter have, as used in this title, the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this chapter.

**61-1-102. Motor vehicle.** (1) "Motor vehicle":

(a) means a vehicle propelled by its own power and designed or used to transport persons or property upon the highways of the state;

(b) for the purpose of chapter 3, includes trailers and semitrailers;

(c) for the purpose of chapter 3, parts 1 and 2, includes campers, as defined in 61-1-129, motorboats and personal watercraft, as defined in 23-2-502, sailboats, as defined in 23-2-502, that are 12 feet in length or longer, and snowmobiles, as defined in 23-2-601.

(2) The term does not include a bicycle as defined in 61-1-123.

**61-1-103. Vehicle.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), "vehicle" means every device in, upon, or by which any person or property may be transported or drawn upon a public highway, except devices moved by animal power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

(2) (a) In chapters 3 and 4, vehicle means "motor vehicle" as defined in this part.

(b) (i) In chapter 8, part 4, vehicle does not include a bicycle as defined in 61-1-123.

(ii) In chapter 8, part 4, except 61-8-440 through 61-8-442, vehicle includes a snowmobile.

**61-1-104. Special mobile equipment.** (1) "Special mobile equipment" means a vehicle not designed for the transportation of persons or property on the highways but incidentally operated or moved over the highways, including road construction or maintenance machinery, ditch-digging apparatus, and well-boring apparatus. The fact that equipment is permanently attached to a vehicle does not make the vehicle special mobile equipment. The enumeration in this section is partial and does not exclude other vehicles that are within the general terms of this section.

(2) For purposes of Title 61, chapter 3, and Title 61, chapter 10, part 2, a motor vehicle or a trailer designed and used to apply fertilizer to agricultural land must be treated as special mobile equipment.

(3) For registration purposes, a log loader must be treated as special mobile equipment, subject to the identification and registration exemptions and regulations in 61-3-431.

**61-1-105. Motorcycle.** "Motorcycle" means a motor vehicle having not more than three wheels in contact with the ground and a saddle on which the operator sits or a platform on which he stands and a driving wheel in contact with the ground in addition to the wheels of the vehicle itself. A motorcycle may carry one or more attachments and a seat for the conveyance of a passenger. The term does not include a tractor or a bicycle as defined in 61-1-123.

**61-1-106. Motor-driven cycle.** "Motor-driven cycle" means every motorcycle, including every motor scooter, with a motor which produces not to exceed 5 horsepower. The term does not include a bicycle as defined in 61-1-123.

**61-1-107. Truck.** "Truck" or "motortruck" means every motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property.

**61-1-108. Truck tractor.** "Truck tractor" means every motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles and not constructed to carry a load other than a part of the weight of the vehicle and load drawn.

**61-1-109. Farm tractor.** "Farm tractor" means every motor vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing plows, mowing machines, and other implements of husbandry.

**61-1-110. Road tractor.** "Road tractor" means every motor vehicle designed and used for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry any load thereon either independently or any part of the weight of a vehicle or load so drawn.

**61-1-111. Trailer.** "Trailer" means every vehicle, with or without motive power (other than a pole trailer), designed for carrying property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that no part of its weight rests upon the towing vehicle, except that as used in chapters 3 and 4 the term includes every vehicle without motive power designed to carry property or passengers wholly on its own structure and to be drawn by a motor vehicle.

**61-1-112. Semitrailer.** "Semitrailer" means every vehicle, with or without motive power (other than a pole trailer), designed for carrying property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that some part of its weight and that of its load rests upon or is carried by another vehicle, except that as used in chapters 3 and 4 the term includes a pole trailer.

**61-1-113. Dolly or converter gear.** "Dolly or converter gear" means a device consisting of one or two axles with a fifth wheel and trailer tongue used to support the forward end of a semitrailer, thereby converting a semitrailer into a trailer.

**61-1-114. Pole trailer.** "Pole trailer" means every vehicle without power designed to be drawn by another vehicle and attached to the towing vehicle by means of a reach or pole or by being boomed or otherwise secured to the towing vehicle and ordinarily used for transporting long or irregularly shaped loads such as poles, pipes, or structural members capable generally of sustaining themselves as beams between the supporting connections.

**61-1-115. Bus.** "Bus" means every motor vehicle designed for carrying more than 10 passengers and used for the transportation of persons and every motor vehicle, other than a taxicab, designed and used for the transportation of persons for compensation.

**61-1-116. School bus.** "School bus" has the meaning given in 20-10-101.

**61-1-117. Used motor vehicle.** The term "used motor vehicle" as used in chapters 3 and 4 shall include any motor vehicle which has been sold, bargained, exchanged, given away, or title transferred from the person who first took title to it from the manufacturer, importer, dealer or wholesaler, or agent of the manufacturer or importer, and so used as to have become what is commonly known as "second hand" within the ordinary meaning thereof.

**61-1-118. Police vehicle.** "Police vehicle" means any vehicle used in the service of any law enforcement agency.

**61-1-119. Authorized emergency vehicles.** "Authorized emergency vehicles" means vehicles of the fire department, fire patrol, and such ambulances and emergency vehicles as are designated or authorized by the department.

**61-1-120. Emergency service vehicles.** "Emergency service vehicles" means emergency service vehicles of state, county, or municipal departments or public service vehicles, commercial tow trucks, or commercial road service trucks, which by the nature of their operation cause a vehicular traffic hazard.

**61-1-121. Implement of husbandry.** "Implement of husbandry" means every vehicle which is designed for agricultural purposes and exclusively used by the owner thereof in the conduct of his agricultural operations.

**61-1-123. Bicycle.** "Bicycle" means:

(1) every vehicle propelled solely by human power upon which any person may ride, having two tandem wheels and a seat height of more than 25 inches from the ground when the seat is raised to its highest position, except scooters and similar devices; or

(2) every vehicle equipped with two or three wheels, foot pedals to permit muscular propulsion and an independent power source providing a maximum of 2 brake horsepower. If a combustion engine is used, the maximum piston or rotor displacement may not exceed 3.05 cubic inches (50 centimeters) regardless of the number of chambers in the power source. The power source must not be capable of propelling the device, unassisted, at a speed exceeding 30 miles an hour (48.28 kilometers an hour) on a level surface. The device must be equipped with a power drive system that functions directly or automatically only and does not require clutching or shifting by the operator after the drive system is engaged.

**61-1-124. Railroad train.** "Railroad train" means a steam engine or electric or other motor, with or without cars coupled thereto, operated upon rails, except streetcars.

**61-1-125. Pneumatic tire.** "Pneumatic tire" means every tire in which compressed air is designed to support the load.

**61-1-126. Solid tire.** "Solid tire" means every tire of rubber or other resilient material which does not depend upon compressed air for the support of the load.

**61-1-127. Metal tire.** "Metal tire" means every tire the surface of which in contact with the highway is wholly or partly metal or other hard nonresilient material.

**61-1-128. Axle.** "Axle" means a transverse beam which is the common axis of rotation of one or more wheels and which, to receive credit for allowable total gross loading, must be capable of continuously transmitting a proportionate share of the total gross load to the roadway when the axle is in operation.

**61-1-130. Motor home.** "Motor home" as used in 61-3-521 and 61-3-522 means a motor vehicle:

- (1) designed to provide temporary living quarters, built as an integral part of or permanently attached to a self-propelled motor vehicle chassis or van;
- (2) containing permanently installed independent life support systems that meet the ANSI/A119.2 standard; and
- (3) providing at least four of the following types of facilities:
  - (a) cooking, refrigeration, or icebox;
  - (b) self-contained toilet;
  - (c) heating or air-conditioning, or both;
  - (d) potable water supply, including a faucet and sink; or
  - (e) separate 110-volt or 125-volt electrical power supply or a liquefied petroleum gas supply, or both.

**61-1-131. Travel trailer.** "Travel trailer" as used in 61-3-521 and 61-3-523 means a trailer 45 feet or less in length and 8 feet or less in width originally designed or permanently altered to provide temporary facilities for recreational, travel, or camping use and not used as a principal residence.

**61-1-132. Recreational vehicle.** The term "recreational vehicle" as used in chapter 4, part 1, of this title and 61-10-141 includes travel trailers as defined in 61-1-131, motor homes as defined in 61-1-130, and other self-propelled vehicles originally designed or permanently altered to provide temporary facilities for recreational, travel, or camping use.

**61-1-133. Quadricycle.** (1) "Quadricycle" means a four-wheeled motor vehicle, designed for on-road or off-road use, having a seat or saddle upon which the operator sits and a motor capable of producing not more than 50 horsepower.

- (2) The term does not include golf carts.

**61-1-134. Commercial motor vehicle defined -- exceptions.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), "commercial motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles used in commerce to transport passengers or property if the vehicle:

- (a) has a gross combination weight rating or a gross combination weight of 26,001 pounds or more, whichever is greater, inclusive of a towed unit with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds;
- (b) has a gross vehicle weight rating or a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 pounds or more, whichever is greater;
- (c) is designed to transport at least 16 passengers, including the driver;
- (d) is a school bus as defined in 20-10-101; or
- (e) is of any size and is used to transport any quantity or form of hazardous material required to be placarded pursuant to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

- (2) The following vehicles are not commercial motor vehicles:

- (a) an authorized emergency service vehicle:
  - (i) equipped with audible and visual signals as required under 61-9-401 and 61-9-402; and
  - (ii) entitled to the exemptions granted under 61-8-107; or
- (b) a vehicle:
  - (i) controlled and operated by a farmer, family member of the farmer, or person employed by the farmer;

(ii) used to transport farm products, farm machinery, or farm supplies within Montana within 150 miles of the farm or, if there is a reciprocity agreement with a state adjoining Montana, within 150 miles of the farm, including any area within that perimeter that is in the adjoining state; and

(iii) not used to transport goods for compensation or hire.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "farmer" means a person who operates a farm or who is directly involved in the cultivation of land or crops or the raising of livestock owned by or under the direct control of that person;

(b) "gross combination weight rating" means the value specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a combination or articulated vehicle; and

(c) "gross vehicle weight rating" means the value specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle.

**61-1-136. Driver's license.** "Driver's license" means any license or permit to operate a motor vehicle issued under or granted by the laws of this state, including:

(1) any temporary license or instruction permit;

(2) the privilege of any person to drive a motor vehicle, whether or not the person holds a valid license;

(3) any nonresident's driving privilege;

(4) a motorcycle endorsement; and

(5) a commercial driver's license.

**61-1-137. Hazardous material.** "Hazardous material" means a substance or material, defined or listed as a hazardous material in Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, in a quantity and form that may pose an unreasonable risk to health and safety or property when transported.

**61-1-138. Van.** "Van" means a motor vehicle designed for the transportation of at least six persons and not more than nine persons and intended for but not limited to family or personal transportation without compensation.

**61-1-139. Light vehicle.** "Light vehicle" means a motor vehicle commonly referred to as an automobile, van, sport utility vehicle, or truck having a manufacturer's rated capacity of 1 ton or less.

**61-1-140. Sport utility vehicle.** "Sport utility vehicle" means a light vehicle designed to transport 10 or fewer persons that is constructed on a truck chassis or that has special features for occasional off-road use. The term does not include trucks having a manufacturer's rated capacity of 1 ton or less.

**61-1-142. Noncommercial motor vehicle defined.** "Noncommercial motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles that is not included in the definition of commercial motor vehicle in 61-1-134 and includes but is not limited to the vehicles listed in 61-1-134(2).

**61-1-141. New motor vehicle.** "New motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle, regardless of the mileage of the vehicle, the legal or equitable title to which has never been transferred by a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer to another person as the result of a retail sale.

**61-1-201. Highway.** "Highway" means the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel, except that for the purpose of chapter 8 the term also includes ways which have been or shall be dedicated to public use.

**61-1-202. Public highway.** "Public highway" means "highway" as defined in 61-1-201.

**61-1-203. Street.** "Street" means the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

**61-1-204. Arterial street.** "Arterial street" means any U. S. or state numbered route, controlled-access highway, or other major radial or circumferential street or highway designated by local authorities within their respective jurisdictions as part of a major arterial system or highway.

**61-1-205. Private road or driveway.** "Private road" or "driveway" means every way or place in private ownership and used for vehicular travel by the owner and those having express or implied permission from the owner, but not by other persons.

**61-1-206. Roadway.** Except as used in 61-8-605, "roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder. In the event a highway includes two or more separate roadways, the term "roadway" refers to any roadway separately but not to all roadways collectively.

**61-1-207. Laned roadway.** "Laned roadway" means a roadway which is divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for vehicular traffic.

**61-1-208. Sidewalk.** "Sidewalk" means that portion of a street between the curb lines or the lateral lines of a roadway, and the adjacent property lines, intended for use of pedestrians.

**61-1-209. Crosswalk.** "Crosswalk" means:

(1) that part of a roadway at an intersection included within the connections of the lateral lines of the sidewalks on opposite sides of the highway measured from the curbs or, in the absence of curbs, from the edges of the traversable roadway;

(2) any portion of a roadway at an intersection or elsewhere distinctly indicated for pedestrians crossing by lines or other markings on the surface.

**61-1-210. Through highway.** "Through highway" means every highway or portion thereof at the entrances to which vehicular traffic from intersecting highways is required by law to stop before entering or crossing the same and when stop signs are erected as provided in chapter 8 of this title.

**61-1-211. Controlled-access highway.** "Controlled-access highway" means every highway, street, or roadway in respect to which owners or occupants of abutting lands and other persons have no legal right of access to or from the same except at such points only and in such manner as may be determined by the public authority having jurisdiction over such highway, street, or roadway.

**61-1-212. Intersection.** (1) "Intersection" means the area embraced within the prolongation or connection of the lateral curb lines or if none then the lateral boundary lines of the roadways of two highways which join one another at or approximately at right angles or the area within which vehicles traveling upon different highways joining at any other angle may come in conflict.

(2) Where a highway includes two roadways 30 feet or more apart, then every crossing of each roadway of such divided highway by an intersecting highway shall be regarded as a separate intersection. In the event such intersecting highway also includes two roadways 30 feet or more apart, then every crossing of two roadways of such highways shall be regarded as a separate intersection.

**61-1-301. Department.** "Department" means the department of justice acting directly or through its duly authorized officers or agents.

**61-1-302. Chief.** "Chief" means the chief of the Montana highway patrol.

**61-1-303. Commission.** "Commission" means the state transportation commission.

**61-1-304. Police officer.** "Police officer" means every officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violations of traffic regulations.

**61-1-305. Highway patrol officer.** "Highway patrol officer" means every state officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violations of traffic regulations.

**61-1-306. Local authorities.** "Local authorities" means every county, municipal, and other local board or body having authority to enact laws relating to traffic under the constitution and laws of this state.

**61-1-307. Person.** "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, association, firm, or other legal entity. "Person" as used in part 1, chapter 6, means every natural person, firm, partnership, association, or corporation.

**61-1-308. Pedestrian.** "Pedestrian" means any person afoot.

**61-1-309. Driver.** "Driver" means every person who drives or is in actual physical control of a vehicle.

**61-1-310. Owner.** "Owner" means a person who holds the legal title to a vehicle. If a vehicle is the subject of an agreement for the conditional sale thereof with the right of purchase upon performance of the conditions stated in the agreement and with an immediate right of possession vested in the conditional vendee, or in the event a vehicle is subject to a lease, contract, or other legal arrangement vesting right of possession or control, for security or otherwise, or in the event a mortgagor of a vehicle is entitled to possession, then the owner is the person in whom is vested right of possession or control.

**61-1-311. Operator.** "Operator" means a person who is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle.

**61-1-313. Nonresident.** "Nonresident" means every person who is not a resident of this state.

**61-1-314. Dealer.** (1) "Dealer" means a person, firm, association, or corporation that, for commission or profit, engages in whole or in part in the business of buying, selling, exchanging, accepting on consignment, or acting as a broker of new motor vehicles or used motor vehicles that are not registered in the name of the person, firm, association, or corporation and that are required to be licensed under chapter 4 of this title.

(2) The term "dealer" does not include the following:

(a) receivers, trustees, administrators, executors, guardians, or other persons appointed by or acting under a judgment or order of any court of competent jurisdiction;

(b) employees of the persons included in subsection (2)(a) when engaged in the specific performance of their duties as employees; or

(c) public officers while performing or in the operation of their duties.

**61-1-315. Trailer dealer.** "Trailer dealer" means any person, firm, or corporation engaged in whole or in part in the business of buying or selling trailers or semitrailers, with facilities for displaying one or more trailers or semitrailers.



**61-1-316. Manufacturer.** The term "manufacturer" includes any person, firm, corporation, or association engaged in the manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers as a regular business.

**61-1-317. Railroad.** "Railroad" means a carrier of persons or property upon cars, other than streetcars, operated upon stationary rails.

**61-1-318. Broker.** "Broker" means a person engaged in the business of offering to procure or procuring motor vehicles or who represents to the public through solicitation, advertisement, or otherwise that the person is one who offers to procure or procures motor vehicles by negotiating purchases, contracts, sales, or exchanges and who does not store, display, or take ownership of any vehicles for the purpose of selling vehicles.

**61-1-319. Wholesaler.** "Wholesaler" means a person, firm, partnership, association, or corporation who for a commission or with intent to make a profit or gain of money or other thing of value sells, exchanges, or attempts to negotiate a sale or exchange of an interest in a used motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, special mobile equipment, motorcycle, or quadricycle only to motor vehicle dealers and auto auctions licensed under this part.

**61-1-320. Motor carrier defined.** "Motor carrier" means a person or corporation, or its lessees, trustees, or receivers appointed by a court, operating motor vehicles upon a public highway in this state for the transportation of property for hire on a commercial basis. The term does not include motor carriers regulated under Title 69, chapter 12.

**61-1-321. Established place of business.** (1) "Established place of business" means the geographic location upon which a permanent building is located that is actually occupied either continuously or at regular periods by a dealer. A building is actually occupied by a dealer if the dealer's books and records are kept in the building and, except for approved off-premises sales, the dealer's business is transacted within the building.

(2) A dealer's established place of business may also include the geographic location of one or more physical lots upon which vehicles are displayed for sale, as long as the requirements of 61-4-101(4)(d) regulating the distance between display lots and the recordkeeping building are met.

(3) The geographic location of the permanent building actually occupied by the dealer or the geographic location of the physical lots upon which vehicles are displayed for sale may be identified by street address, legal description, or other reasonably identifiable description, as prescribed by the department.

**61-1-401. Traffic.** "Traffic" means pedestrians, ridden or herded animals, vehicles, streetcars, and other conveyances either singly or together while using any highways for purposes of travel.

**61-1-402. Traffic-control signal.** "Traffic-control signal" means any device, whether manually, electrically, or mechanically operated, by which traffic is alternately directed to stop and to proceed.

**61-1-403. Official traffic-control devices.** "Official traffic-control devices" means all signs, signals, markings, and devices not inconsistent with this title, placed or erected by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction, for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic. For the purpose of chapter 8, part 2, of this title, the term also includes "flag person" as defined in 61-1-411.

**61-1-404. Railroad sign or signal.** "Railroad sign" or "railroad signal" means any sign, signal, or device erected by authority of a public body or official or by a railroad and intended to give notice of the presence of railroad tracks or the approach of a railroad train.

**61-1-405. Safety zone.** "Safety zone" means the area or space officially set apart within a roadway for the exclusive use of pedestrians and which is protected or is so marked or indicated by adequate signs as to be plainly visible at all times while set apart as a safety zone.

**61-1-406. Right-of-way.** "Right-of-way" means the privilege of the immediate use of the roadway.

**61-1-407. Stop, stopping, standing, and parking.** (1) "Stop", when required, means complete cessation from movement.

(2) "Stop", "stopping", or "standing", when prohibited, means any stopping or standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer, highway patrol officer, or traffic-control sign or signal.

(3) "Parking", when prohibited, means the standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, otherwise than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading.

**61-1-408. Business district.** "Business district" means the territory contiguous to and including a highway when within any 600 feet along such highway there are buildings in use for business or industrial purposes, including but not limited to hotels, banks, or office buildings, railroad stations, and public buildings which occupy at least 300 feet of frontage on one side or 300 feet collectively on both sides of the highway.

**61-1-409. Residence district.** "Residence district" means the territory contiguous to and including a highway not comprising a business district when the property on such highway for a distance of 300 feet or more is in the main improved with residences or residences and buildings in use for business.

**61-1-410. Urban district.** "Urban district" means the territory contiguous to and including any street which is built up with structures devoted to business, industry, or dwelling houses situated at intervals of less than 100 feet for a distance of one-fourth mile or more.

**61-1-411. Flag person.** "Flag person" means any person who directs, controls, or alters the normal flow of vehicular traffic upon a street or highway as a result of a vehicular traffic hazard then present on that street or highway. This person, except a uniformed traffic enforcement officer exercising his duty as a result of a planned vehicular traffic hazard, shall be equipped as required by the rules of the Montana department of transportation.

**61-1-412. Flag vehicle.** "Flag vehicle" means any vehicle equipped as required by law or Montana department of transportation regulations to warn or guide vehicular traffic. When not being operated as a flag vehicle, signs shall be removed.

**61-1-501. Mobile home or housetrailer.** "Mobile home" or "housetrailer" means a trailer or a semitrailer that is designed, constructed, and equipped as a dwelling place, living abode, or sleeping place (either permanently or temporarily) and is equipped for use as a conveyance on streets and highways or a trailer or semitrailer whose chassis and exterior shell is designed and constructed for use as a housetrailer but that is used permanently or temporarily for the advertising, sales, display, or promotion of merchandise or services or for any commercial purpose except the transportation of property for hire or the transportation of property for distribution by a private carrier.

**61-1-502. Gross vehicle weight.** "Gross vehicle weight" means the weight of a vehicle without load plus the weight of any load on the vehicle.

**61-1-503. Suspension.** "Suspension" means that the driver's license and privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways are temporarily withdrawn, but only during the period of such suspension.

**61-1-504. Revocation.** "Revocation" means that the driver's license and privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways are terminated and may not be renewed or restored. An application for a new license may be presented and acted upon by the department after the expiration of the period of the revocation.

**61-1-505. Cancellation.** "Cancellation" means that a driver's license is annulled and terminated because of some error or defect or because the licensee is no longer entitled to such license, but the cancellation of a license is without prejudice and application for a new license may be made at any time after such cancellation.

**61-1-506. Explosives.** "Explosives" means any chemical compound or mechanical mixture that is commonly used or intended for the purpose of producing an explosion and which contains any oxidizing and combustive units or other ingredients in such proportions, quantities, or packing that an ignition by fire, friction, concussion, percussion, or detonator of any part of the compound or mixture may cause such sudden generation of highly heated gases that the resultant gaseous pressures are capable of producing destructive effects on contiguous objects or of destroying life or limb.

**61-1-507. Flammable liquid.** "Flammable liquid" means any liquid which has a flash point of 70 degrees F or less as determined by a Tagliabue or equivalent closed cup test device.

**61-1-508. Registration.** "Registration" means, as used in part 1, chapter 6, registration certificate or certificates and registration plates issued under the laws of this state pertaining to the registration of motor vehicles.

**61-1-509. Certificate of title.** "Certificate of title" means the paper record issued by the department or by the appropriate agency of another jurisdiction that establishes a verifiable record of ownership between an identified person or persons and the motor vehicle specifically described in the record and that provides notice of a perfected security interest in the motor vehicle.

**61-1-510. Declared weight.** "Declared weight" means the total unladen weight of a vehicle plus the weight of the maximum load to be carried on the vehicle as stated by the registrant in the application for registration.

**61-1-511. For hire defined.** "For hire" means an action performed for remuneration of any kind, whether paid or promised, either directly or indirectly, or received or obtained through leasing, brokering, or buy-and-sell arrangements from which a remuneration is obtained or derived for transportation service.

**61-1-512. Ignition interlock device -- definition.** "Ignition interlock device" means ignition equipment that:

- (1) analyzes the breath to determine blood alcohol concentration;
- (2) is approved by the department pursuant to 61-8-441; and
- (3) is designed to prevent a motor vehicle from being operated by a person who has consumed a specific amount of an alcoholic beverage.

**61-1-513. Manufactured home.** (1) "Manufactured home" means a residential dwelling built in a factory in accordance with the United States department of housing and urban development code and the federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards.

(2) A manufactured home does not include a mobile home, as defined in 61-1-501 or 15-1-101, a housetrailer, as defined in 61-1-501, or a mobile home or housetrailer constructed before the federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards went into effect on June 15, 1976.

**61-1-514. Retail sale.** (1) "Retail sale" means the sale of a new motor vehicle or used motor vehicle, a recreational vehicle, a trailer, a motorcycle, a quadricycle, or special mobile equipment by a dealer to a person for purposes other than resale.

(2) For purposes of chapter 4, part 1, of this title, retail sale does not mean a sale that is the result of a transfer between a dealer, wholesaler, or auto auction and another dealer, wholesaler, or auto auction.

**61-1-515. (Effective January 1, 2004) Registration decal.** "Registration decal" means an adhesive sticker produced by the department and issued by the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer to the owner of a motor vehicle, as defined in 61-1-102, as proof of payment of all fees imposed for the registration period indicated on the sticker as recorded by the department under 61-3-101.

## **Vehicle Registration**

**61-3-301. Registration -- license plate required -- display.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a person may not operate a motor vehicle upon the public highways of Montana unless the vehicle is properly registered and has the proper number plates conspicuously displayed, one on the front and one on the rear of the vehicle, each securely fastened to prevent it from swinging and unobstructed from plain view, except that vehicles authorized to display demonstrator plates under 61-4-125 or 61-4-129 may have only one number plate conspicuously displayed on the rear. A person may not display on a vehicle at the same time a number assigned to it under any motor vehicle law except as provided in this chapter. A junk vehicle, as defined in Title 75, chapter 10, part 5, being driven or towed to an auto wrecking graveyard for disposal is exempt from the provisions of this section.

(2) A person may not purchase or display on a vehicle a license plate bearing the number assigned to any county, as provided in 61-3-332, other than the county of the person's permanent residence at the time of application for registration. However, the owner of a motor vehicle requiring a license plate on a motor vehicle used in the public transportation of persons or property may make application for the license in any county through which the motor vehicle passes in its regularly scheduled route, and the license plate issued bearing the number assigned to that county may be displayed on the motor vehicle in any other county of the state.

(3) It is unlawful to:

(a) display license plates issued to one vehicle on any other vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer unless legally transferred as provided by statute;

(b) repaint old license plates to resemble current license plates; or

(c) display a prior design of number plates issued under 61-3-332(4)(a) or special license plates issued under 61-3-332(10) or 61-3-421 more than 18 months after a new design of number plates or special license plates has been issued, except as provided in 61-3-332(4)(c) and (4)(d), 61-3-448, or 61-3-468.

(4) This section does not apply to a vehicle exempt from taxation under 15-6-215 or subject to the registration fee or fee in lieu of tax under 61-3-520.

(5) A person violating these provisions is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to the penalty prescribed in 61-3-601.

(6) For the purposes of this section, "conspicuously displayed" means that the required license plates are obviously visible and firmly attached to:

(a) the front and the rear bumper of a motor vehicle equipped with front and rear bumpers; or

(b) other clearly visible locations on the front and the rear exteriors of a motor vehicle.

**61-3-302. Residents operating motor vehicles under licenses issued by any state other than Montana forbidden.** It shall especially be provided that a resident of the state of Montana shall not operate a motor vehicle under a license issued by any other state than Montana.

**61-3-303. Registration -- process -- fees.** (1) A Montana resident who owns a motor vehicle operated or driven upon the public highways of this state shall register the motor vehicle in the office of the county treasurer in the county where the owner permanently resides or, if the vehicle is owned by a corporation or used primarily for commercial purposes, in the county where the vehicle is permanently assigned.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3), the county treasurer shall register any vehicle for which:

(i) as of the date that the vehicle is to be registered, the owner delivers an application for a certificate of title to the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer; or

(ii) the county treasurer confirms that the department has an electronic record of title for the vehicle as provided under 61-3-101.

(b) To register a vehicle, the county treasurer shall update the electronic record of title maintained by the department under 61-3-101 by entering the fees paid and recording any changes to the recorded data.

(3) (a) A county treasurer shall register a motor vehicle for which a certificate of title and registration were issued in another jurisdiction and for which registration is required under 61-3-701 after the county treasurer examines the current out-of-jurisdiction registration certificate or receipt and receives payment of the fees required in 61-3-701. The county treasurer may ask the vehicle owner to provide additional information, prescribed by the department, to ensure that the electronic record of registration maintained by the department is complete.

(b) A county treasurer may register a motor vehicle for which the new owner cannot present the previously issued certificate of title only as authorized by the department under 61-3-342.

(4) The department or the county treasurer shall determine the amount of fees, including local option taxes or fees, to be collected at the time of registration for each light vehicle subject to a registration fee under 61-3-560 through 61-3-562 and for each bus, truck having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, and truck tractor subject to a fee in lieu of tax under 61-3-529. The county treasurer shall collect the registration fee, other appropriate fees, and local option taxes or fees, if applicable, on each motor vehicle at the time of its registration.

(5) A person who seeks to register a motor vehicle, except a mobile home or a manufactured home as those terms are defined in 15-1-101(1), shall pay to the county treasurer:

(a) the registration fee, as provided in 61-3-311 and 61-3-321 or 61-3-456;

(b) except as provided in 61-3-456 or unless it has been previously paid, the motor vehicle fees in lieu of tax or registration fees under 61-3-560 through 61-3-562 imposed against the vehicle for the current year of registration and the immediately previous year; and

(c) a donation of \$1 or more if the person has indicated on the application that the person wishes to donate to promote awareness and education efforts for procurement of organ and tissue donations in Montana to favorably impact anatomical gifts; and

(d) a donation of \$1 or more if the person has indicated on the application that the person wishes to donate to promote education on, support for, and awareness of traumatic brain injury.

(6) The county treasurer may not issue a registration receipt or license plates for the vehicle to the owner unless the owner makes the payments required by subsection (5). Except as provided in 61-3-560 through 61-3-562, the department may not assess or impose and the county treasurer may not collect taxes or fees for a period other than:

(a) the current year; and

(b) except as provided in subsection (9), the immediately preceding year if the vehicle was not registered or operated on the highways of the state, regardless of the period of time since the vehicle was previously registered or operated.

(7) The department may make full and complete investigation of the registration status of the vehicle. A person seeking to register a motor vehicle under this section shall provide additional information to support the registration to the department if requested.

(8) Revenue that accrues from the voluntary donation provided in subsection (5)(c) must be forwarded by the respective county treasurer to the department of revenue for deposit in the state special revenue fund to the credit of an account established by the department of public health and human services to support activities related to awareness and education efforts for procurement of organ and tissue donations for anatomical gifts.

(9) (a) Except as provided in subsection (9)(b), the fees in lieu of tax, taxes, and fees imposed on or collected from the registration of a travel trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle or a trailer, pole trailer, or semitrailer that has a declared weight of less than 26,000 pounds are required to be paid only once during the time that the vehicle is owned by the same person who registered the vehicle. Once registered, a vehicle described in this subsection (9)(a) is registered permanently unless ownership of the vehicle is transferred.

(b) Whenever ownership of a vehicle described in subsection (9)(a) is transferred, the new owner is required to register the vehicle as if it were being registered for the first time, including paying all of the required fees in lieu of tax, taxes, and fees.

(10) Revenue that accrues from the voluntary donation provided in subsection (5)(d) must be forwarded by the respective county treasurer to the department of revenue for deposit in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the account established in 2-15-2218 to support activities related to education regarding prevention of traumatic brain injury.

**61-3-311. Registration -- annual renewal -- time periods.** (1) Registration must be renewed annually, and registration fees must be paid annually. Except as provided in 61-3-313 through 61-3-316, 61-3-318, 61-3-526, and 61-3-721, all registrations expire on December 31 of the year in which they are issued and must be renewed annually upon payment of all required fees to the county treasurer or the department's agent not later than February 15 of each year. If the ownership of a motor vehicle is transferred during the registration year, the new owner shall apply for a certificate of title and register the motor vehicle as provided by this chapter.

(2) The department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer may not renew the registration of a vehicle whose ownership has been transferred and that was originally registered under the provisions of 61-3-342(3) unless:

(a) the previously issued certificate of title has been surrendered to the department, its authorized agent, or the county treasurer and the process for issuing a certificate of title has been completed; or

(b) the person to whom ownership of the vehicle has been transferred presents an affidavit and bond in support of the application for a certificate of title as permitted in 61-3-208.

**61-3-312. Renewal of registration -- exceptions -- grace period.** (1) Except as provided in 61-3-311(1), 61-3-314, 61-3-318, 61-3-526, 61-3-560, 61-3-562, and 61-3-721, the registration of a vehicle under this chapter expires on December 31 of each year and must be renewed annually upon payment of registration fees as provided in 61-3-303 and 61-3-321. The renewal takes effect on January 1 of each year. A registration receipt is valid only during the registration year for which it is issued.

(2) The owner of a vehicle registered under the provisions of this section may operate the vehicle between January 1 and February 15 without displaying the registration decal of the current year if, during the period, the owner displays upon the vehicle the number plates or plate assigned for the previous year.

**61-3-313. Vehicles subject to staggered registration.** For purposes of 61-3-313 through 61-3-316, "vehicle" means a motor vehicle, as defined in 61-1-102, that is subject to annual registration in this state except:

- (1) vehicles owned or leased and operated by the government of the United States or by the state of Montana or a political subdivision of the state;
- (2) mobile homes and motor homes;
- (3) vehicles that are registered in accordance with or subject to 61-3-332(10)(c)(i)(A), 61-3-411, or 61-3-421;
- (4) trucks exceeding a 1-ton rated capacity;
- (5) trailers, semitrailers, tractors, buses, motorcycles, quadricycles, and motor-driven cycles;
- (6) special mobile equipment as defined in 61-1-104;
- (7) motor vehicles registered as part of a fleet under 61-3-318; and
- (8) apportionable vehicles registered as part of a fleet, as defined in 61-3-712, that is subject to the provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733.

**61-3-314. Registration period.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title regarding the registration of motor vehicles, each vehicle subject to the provisions of 61-3-313 through 61-3-316 must be registered for a 12-month period based upon the date it is first registered in this state pursuant to 61-3-313 through 61-3-316.

(2) There are 12 registration periods, each of which commences on the first day of a calendar month. The periods are:

- (a) January 1 through January 31 ..... 1st period
- (b) February 1 through February 28/29 ..... 2nd period
- (c) March 1 through March 31 ..... 3rd period
- (d) April 1 through April 30 ..... 4th period
- (e) May 1 through May 31 ..... 5th period
- (f) June 1 through June 30 ..... 6th period
- (g) July 1 through July 31 ..... 7th period
- (h) August 1 through August 31 ..... 8th period
- (i) September 1 through September 30 ..... 9th period
- (j) October 1 through October 31 ..... 10th period
- (k) November 1 through November 30 ..... 11th period
- (l) December 1 through December 31 ..... 12th period

**61-3-315. Reregistration on anniversary date -- department to make rules -- early reregistration.** (1) A vehicle that has been registered for any of the periods designated in 61-3-314 must be reregistered for the same period on or before the anniversary date of the initial registration unless that period is changed as provided in subsections (2) and (4). The anniversary date for reregistration is the last day of the month for the designated registration period.

(2) (a) The owner of a motor vehicle subject to the provisions of 61-3-313 through 61-3-316 and subject to the registration fee, as provided in 61-3-560 and 61-3-561, may register the motor vehicle for a period not to exceed 24 months. The registration expires on the last day of the 24th month commencing from the date of the designated registration period under 61-3-314 for which the vehicle is registered.

(b) The owner of a motor vehicle 11 years old or older subject to the provisions of 61-3-313 through 61-3-316 and subject to the registration fee, as provided in 61-3-560 and 61-3-561, may permanently register the motor vehicle as provided in 61-3-562. The registration remains in effect until ownership of the vehicle is transferred to another person by the registered owner.

(3) The department shall adopt rules for the implementation and administration of 61-3-313 through 61-3-316 and for the identification of the registration on the vehicles. The rules adopted by the department pursuant to this section must also allow early reregistration of motor vehicles that are

subject to the provisions of 61-3-313 through 61-3-316 and subject to the registration fee, as provided in 61-3-560 and 61-3-561, when an owner of a motor vehicle presents extenuating circumstances.

(4) The department shall provide for simultaneous registration of multiple vehicles that have common ownership. The rules must provide for a change of the registration period to coincide with the date an owner desires to register the vehicles.

**61-3-316. New registrations under staggered registration.** Vehicles which are registered for the first time in this state shall be assigned a registration period corresponding to when they are first registered in this state. The registration period for a vehicle shall thereafter remain the same from year to year.

**61-3-317. New registration required for transferred vehicle -- grace period -- penalty -- display of proof of purchase.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the new owner of a transferred motor vehicle has a grace period of 20 calendar days from the date of purchase to make application for a certificate of title and pay the registration fees, fees in lieu of tax and other fees required by part 5 of this chapter, and local option taxes, if applicable, unless the fees and taxes have been paid for the year or for the 24-month period as provided in 61-3-315, as if the vehicle were being registered for the first time in that registration year.

(2) The new owner of a vehicle described in 61-3-303(9) shall make application and pay the registration fees, fees in lieu of tax, and other fees required by part 5 of this chapter and local option taxes, if applicable, whether or not the fees and taxes have been paid previously.

(3) If the motor vehicle was not purchased from a licensed motor vehicle dealer as provided in this chapter, it is not a violation of this chapter or any other law for the purchaser to operate the vehicle upon the streets and highways of this state without a current registration receipt or registration decal during the 20-day period if at all times during that period, a temporary registration permit, obtained from the county treasurer or a law enforcement officer as authorized by the department, is clearly displayed in the rear window of the motor vehicle or, if a durable placard has been issued for the vehicle, the placard is attached to the rear of the vehicle.

(4) Registration fees collected under 61-3-321 are not required to be paid when a license plate is transferred under 61-3-335 and this section.

(5) Failure to make application for a certificate of title within the time provided in this section subjects the purchaser to a penalty of \$10. The penalty must be collected by the county treasurer at the time of registration and is in addition to the fees otherwise provided by law. The penalty must be deposited in the state general fund.

### **Fleet Registration**

**61-3-318. Fleet registration period.** (1) (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title regarding the registration of motor vehicles, a person owning or leasing a fleet may register its motor vehicles for a 6-month period, commencing from the date of original registration.

(b) A vehicle remaining in the fleet at the end of a 6-month period must be reregistered for a minimum of 12 months.

(2) As used in this section, "fleet" means more than 25 automobiles or trucks having a rated capacity of three-quarters of a ton or less that are rented or offered for rental without drivers and that are designated by a rental owner as a rental fleet.

**61-3-321. Registration fees of vehicles -- certain vehicles exempt from registration fees -- disposition of fees.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, registration fees must be paid upon registration or, if applicable, reregistration of motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers, in accordance with this chapter, as follows:



(a) light vehicles under 2,850 pounds, \$13.75 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year, \$17;

(b) trailers with a declared weight of less than 2,500 pounds and semitrailers, \$8.25. For a trailer or semitrailer described in 61-3-530(1), this fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of the trailer or semitrailer.

(c) motor vehicles registered pursuant to 61-3-411 that are:

(i) 2,850 pounds and over, \$10; and

(ii) under 2,850 pounds, \$5;

(d) off-highway vehicles registered pursuant to 23-2-817, \$9 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year, \$19.25. This fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of an off-highway vehicle.

(e) light vehicles over 2,850 pounds, trucks and buses less than 1 ton, and heavy trucks in excess of 1 ton, \$18.75 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year, \$22;

(f) logging trucks less than 1 ton, \$23.75;

(g) motor homes, \$22.25;

(h) motorcycles and quadricycles, \$9.75 for a motorcycle or quadricycle with special license plates issued under 61-3-415 and, for a motorcycle or quadricycle under one-time registration, \$9.75 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year, \$11.25. This fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of a motorcycle or quadricycle.

(i) trailers and semitrailers between 2,500 and 6,000 pounds, \$11.25. For a trailer or semitrailer described in 61-3-530(1), this fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of the trailer or semitrailer.

(j) trailers and semitrailers in excess of 6,000 pounds, other than trailers and semitrailers registered in other jurisdictions and registered through a proportional registration agreement, \$16.25. For a trailer or semitrailer described in 61-3-530(1), this fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of the trailer or semitrailer.

(k) travel trailers, \$11.75. This fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of a travel trailer.

(l) recreational vehicles, \$3.50 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year, \$9.75. If the recreational vehicle is a travel trailer, this fee is a one-time fee, except upon transfer of ownership of a travel trailer.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), if a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer is originally registered 6 months after the time of registration as set by law, the registration fee for the remainder of the year is one-half of the regular fee.

(b) For a trailer or semitrailer described in 61-3-530(1), the applicable fees must be paid regardless of when the fees were last paid or if the fees were paid at all.

(3) An additional fee of \$5 for a motorcycle or quadricycle with special license plates issued under 61-3-415 and, for a motorcycle or quadricycle under one-time registration, \$5 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year, \$16 must be collected for the registration of each motorcycle as a safety fee and must be deposited in the state motorcycle safety account provided for in 20-25-1002.

(4) A fee of \$5 for each set of new number plates must be collected when number plates provided for under 61-3-332(2) are issued.

(5) The provisions of this part with respect to the payment of registration fees do not apply to and are not binding upon motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or tractors owned or controlled by the United States of America or any state, county, city, or special district, as defined in 18-8-202.

(6) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-562 and subsection (6)(b) of this section, a fee of 25 cents a year for each registration of a vehicle must be collected when a vehicle is registered or reregistered. The revenue derived from this fee must be forwarded by the county treasurer for deposit in the state general fund for transfer to the credit of the senior citizens and persons with disabilities transportation services account provided for in 7-14-112.

(b) The following vehicles are not subject to the fee imposed in subsection (6)(a):

(i) trailers and semitrailers registered in other jurisdictions and registered through a proportional registration agreement; and

(ii) travel trailers, recreational vehicles, and off-highway vehicles registered pursuant to 23-2-817.

(7) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-562 and subsection (7)(b) of this section, a fee of 50 cents a year for each registration of a vehicle must be collected when a vehicle is registered or reregistered. The county treasurer shall forward revenue derived from this fee to the state for deposit in the general fund.

(b) The following vehicles are not subject to the fee:

(i) trailers and semitrailers registered in other jurisdictions and registered through a proportional registration agreement;

(ii) off-highway vehicles registered pursuant to 23-2-817; and

(iii) vehicles bearing license plates described in 61-3-458(3)(d).

(8) The provisions of this section relating to the payment of registration fees or new number plate fees do not apply when number plates are transferred to a replacement vehicle under 61-3-317, 61-3-332, or 61-3-335.

(9) A person eligible for a waiver under 61-3-460 is exempt from the fees required under this section.

(10) Except as otherwise provided in this section, revenue collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

(11) (a) Unless a person exercises the option in subsection (11)(b), an additional fee of \$4 must be collected for each light vehicle or truck under 8,001 pounds GVW registered for licensing pursuant to this part. The fee must be deposited in the state general fund to be used for state parks, for fishing access sites, and for the operation of state-owned facilities as provided in 15-1-122(3)(c)(vii).

(b) A person who registers a light vehicle or truck under 8,001 pounds GVW may, at the time of annual registration, certify that the person does not intend to use state parks and fishing access sites and may make a written election not to pay the additional \$4 fee provided for in subsection (11)(a). If a written election is made, the fee may not be collected.

**61-3-322. Registration receipts -- issuance.** (1) Upon completion of the registration process, the county treasurer shall issue a registration receipt to the owner of the vehicle.

(2) The registration receipt must contain the name and address of the vehicle owner, the license plate number assigned to the vehicle, sufficient information to identify the registered vehicle and determine its registration date and period of registration, and any additional information required by rule.

(3) The registration receipt must at all times be carried in the vehicle to which it refers or must be carried by the person driving or in control of the vehicle, who shall display it upon demand of a peace officer or any officer or employee of the department or the department of transportation.

**61-3-323. Definitions.** As used in 61-3-323 through 61-3-325, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Domicile" means the county in which a motor vehicle is most frequently used, dispatched, or controlled.

(2) "Fleet" means 100 or more motor vehicles owned or leased by a person operating the vehicles in this state.

**61-3-324. Fleet registration -- application -- additions to and deletions from fleet.** (1) A person owning or leasing a fleet may apply to the department of transportation to register the fleet annually through the department of transportation in lieu of registering each motor vehicle in its domicile.

(2) The application for fleet registration must:

(a) be submitted to the department of transportation prior to November 1 of each year;

(b) include a list of the motor vehicles in the fleet;

- (c) include the current registration receipt for each motor vehicle; and
- (d) include any other relevant information required by the department of transportation.
- (3) A motor vehicle may be added to the fleet.
- (4) A motor vehicle may be removed from a fleet if the owner of the fleet surrenders to the department of transportation the current registration receipt and the license plate for the vehicle no later than December 31. If the receipt or license plate has been lost or stolen, the owner shall submit an affidavit explaining why he is not able to surrender the receipt or license plate.

**61-3-325. Vehicles subject to staggered registration -- fees and taxes -- disposition.** (1) Any motor vehicle in the fleet that is subject to staggered registration under 61-3-313 through 61-3-316 may be registered as part of the fleet on the following fleet renewal date. The department of transportation shall collect the remaining fees and taxes due for the registration year after crediting the registrant for the period that was previously paid.

(2) (a) The department of transportation shall compute fees and taxes due on each motor vehicle in the fleet as provided in part 5 of this chapter, based on its domicile.

(b) The department of transportation shall also collect a registration fee of \$7.50 for each motor vehicle in the fleet in lieu of the registration fee provided for in 61-3-321. The department shall retain \$4.50 of each registration fee for administrative costs and forward the remaining \$3 to the state treasurer for deposit in the general fund in lieu of the fee provided in 61-3-321(5).

(c) All fees and taxes must be paid no later than February 15 each year.

(d) The fees and taxes collected must be distributed by the department of transportation as provided in 61-3-321 and part 5 of this chapter, based on the domicile of each motor vehicle.

### **License Plates**

**61-3-331. Assignment of number plates.** The county treasurer shall, at the time of issuing a registration receipt under 61-3-322, assign such motor vehicle a distinctive number, viz., the license plate number, and deliver to the applicant two license plates, as received from the department, which shall bear such distinctive numbers. The department shall ship said license plates to the various county treasurers by freight, so that they will be received by the county treasurer on or before January 1 of each year.

**61-3-332. Number plates.** (1) A motor vehicle that is driven upon the streets or highways of Montana must display both front and rear number plates, bearing the distinctive number assigned to the vehicle.

(2) In addition to special license plates, collegiate license plates, and generic specialty license plates authorized under this chapter, a separate series of number plates must be issued, in the manner specified, for each of the following vehicle or dealer types:

- (a) passenger vehicles, including automobiles, vans, and sport utility vehicles;
- (b) motorcycles and quadricycles, bearing the letters "MC" or "CYCLE";
- (c) trucks, bearing the letter "T" or the word "TRUCK";
- (d) trailers, bearing the letters "TR" or the word "TRAILER";
- (e) dealers of new, or new and used, motor vehicles, including trucks and trailers, bearing the letter "D" or the word "DEALER";
- (f) dealers of used motor vehicles only, including trucks and trailers, bearing the letters "UD" or the letter "U" and the word "DEALER";
- (g) dealers of motorcycles or quadricycles, bearing the letters "MCD" or the letters "MC" and the word "DEALER";
- (h) dealers of trailers or semitrailers, bearing the letters "DTR" or the letters "TR" and the word "DEALER"; and
- (i) dealers of recreational vehicles, bearing the letters "RV" or the letter "R" and the word "DEALER".

(3) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-479 and subsections (3)(b), (4)(c), and (4)(d) of this section, all number plates for motor vehicles must be issued for a minimum period of 4 years, bear a distinctive marking, and be furnished by the department. In years when number plates are not issued, the department shall provide a registration decal that must be affixed to the rear license plate of the vehicle.

(b) For light vehicles that are permanently registered as provided in 61-3-527 or 61-3-315 and 61-3-562 and vehicles described in 61-3-303(9) that are permanently registered, the department shall provide a distinctive registration decal indicating that the vehicle is permanently registered. The registration decal must be affixed to the rear license plate of the permanently registered vehicle.

(4) (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the department shall create a new design for number plates as provided in this section, and it shall manufacture the newly designed number plates for issuance after December 31, 2005, to replace at renewal, as required in 61-3-312 and 61-3-314, number plates that were displayed on motor vehicles before that date.

(b) Beginning January 1, 2006, the department shall manufacture and issue new number plates after the existing plates have been used for a minimum period of 4 years.

(c) A light vehicle that is registered for a 24-month period, as provided in 61-3-315 and 61-3-560, may display the number plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for the entire 24-month registration period.

(d) A light vehicle described in subsection (3)(b) that is permanently registered may display the number plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for the entire period that the vehicle is permanently registered.

(5) For passenger vehicles and trucks, plates must be of metal 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length. Except for generic specialty license plates, the outline of the state of Montana must be used as a distinctive border on the license plates, and the word "Montana" must be placed on each plate. Registration plates must be treated with a reflectorized background material according to specifications prescribed by the department.

(6) The distinctive registration numbers must begin with a number one or with a letter-number combination, such as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of letters and numbers. Except for special license plates, collegiate license plates, and generic specialty license plates, the distinctive registration number or letter-number combination assigned to the vehicle must appear on the plate preceded by the number of the county and appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal baseline. The county number must be separated from the distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless a letter-number combination is used. The dimensions of the numerals and letters must be determined by the department, and all county and registration numbers must be of equal height.

(7) For the use of exempt motor vehicles and motor vehicles that are exempt from the registration fee as provided in 61-3-560(2)(a), in addition to the markings provided in this section, number plates must bear the following distinctive markings:

(a) For vehicles owned by the state, the department may designate the prefix number for the various state departments. All numbered plates issued to state departments must bear the words "State Owned", and a year number may not be indicated on the plates because these numbered plates are of a permanent nature and will be replaced by the department only when the physical condition of numbered plates requires it.

(b) For vehicles that are owned by the counties, municipalities, and special districts, as defined in 18-8-202, organized under the laws of Montana and not operating for profit, and that are used and operated by officials and employees in the line of duty and for vehicles on loan from the United States government or the state of Montana to, or owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated by officials and employees in the line of duty, there must be placed on the number plates assigned, in a position that the department may designate, the letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT". Distinctive registration numbers for plates assigned to motor vehicles of each of the counties in the state and those of the municipalities and special districts that obtain plates within each county must begin with number one and be numbered consecutively. Because these number plates are of a permanent nature, they are subject

to replacement by the department only when the physical condition of the number plates requires it and a year number may not be displayed on the number plates.

(8) Number plates issued to a passenger vehicle, truck, trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle may be transferred only to a replacement passenger vehicle, truck, trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle. A registration fee may not be assessed upon a transfer of a number plate under 61-3-317 and 61-3-335.

(9) For the purpose of this chapter, the several counties of the state are assigned numbers as follows: Silver Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4; Lewis and Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8; Powder River, 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12; Ravalli, 13; Custer, 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt, 17; Beaverhead, 18; Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big Horn, 22; Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25; Pondera, 26; Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30; Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33; Sheridan, 34; Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38; Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41; Carter, 42; Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46; Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield, 50; Jefferson, 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum, 55; Lincoln, 56. Any new counties must be assigned numbers by the department as they are formed, beginning with the number 57.

(10) Each type of special license plate approved by the legislature, except collegiate license plates authorized in 61-3-463 and generic specialty license plates authorized in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481, must be a separate series of plates, numbered as provided in subsection (6), except that the county number must be replaced by a nonremovable design or decal designating the group or organization to which the applicant belongs. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this section, the special plates are subject to the same rules and laws as govern the issuance of regular license plates, must be placed or mounted on a vehicle owned by the person who is eligible to receive them, with the registration decal affixed to the rear license plate of the vehicle, and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the vehicle.

(11) A Montana resident who is eligible to receive a special parking permit under 49-4-301 may, upon written application on a form prescribed by the department, be issued a special license plate with a design or decal bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability. If the vehicle to which the license plate is attached is permanently registered, the owner of the vehicle shall maintain evidence of continued eligibility to use the license plate, which must be attached to the registration document in the vehicle.

(12) The provisions of this section do not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that is registered as part of a fleet, as defined in 61-3-712, and that is subject to the provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733.

**61-3-333. Replacing number plates.** If loss, mutilation, or destruction of number plates or a motor vehicle's registration decal occurs, the owner of the registered motor vehicle may obtain from the department replacements of the number plates or a duplicate registration decal upon filing a sworn declaration stating that fact and payment of a fee of \$5. If loss, mutilation, or destruction of pioneer plates occurs, duplicates may be obtained in the same manner upon payment of a fee of \$5.

**61-3-334. Expiration of registration on transfer of ownership of vehicle -- duty to remove plates.** Upon the transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle, the registration of the motor vehicle shall expire and it shall be the duty of the transferor immediately to remove the license plates from the vehicle.

**61-3-335. Transfer of license plates to another motor vehicle.** (1) Should the transferor make application for the registration of another motor vehicle at any time during the remainder of the current registration year as shown on the original certificate of registration, he may file an application in the office of the county treasurer where the motor vehicle is registered, upon a form to be prepared and furnished by the department, accompanied by the original certificate of registration, for the transfer of the license plates. The application for transfer of the license plates from the motor vehicle for which

originally issued to a motor vehicle acquired by the same person in whose name the original license plates were issued shall be made within 20 days from date of acquiring the vehicle. The use of the license plates shall not be legalized until proper transfer of license plates has been made.

(2) License plates may be transferred pursuant to this section without transferring ownership of the first vehicle.

(3) Upon transfer of the license plates, the registration of the motor vehicle from which the license plates were transferred expires. The certificate of registration for such vehicle must be surrendered to the county treasurer with the application for transfer.

**61-3-336. Recycling license plates.** The department is authorized to promote the recycling of used or outdated license plates for the metal content and may enter into contractual agreements with nonprofit organizations for the collection of used or outdated license plates and for their transportation to a central recycling point.

**61-3-341. Lost certificates.** In the event any certificate of registration shall be lost, mutilated, or become illegible, the person to whom the same shall have been issued shall immediately make application for and may obtain a duplicate thereof, upon furnishing satisfactory information to the department of such facts and upon payment of a fee of \$2.

### **Temporary Window Sticker**

**61-3-342. Temporary registration permit -- validity -- expiration.** (1) Any purchaser of a motor vehicle who is unable to fully complete the process of applying for a certificate of title because the previously issued certificate of title is lost, in the possession of third parties, in the process of reissuance in this state or elsewhere, or subject to a disputed, preexisting security interest may, upon making affidavit to that effect upon a form prescribed by the department and upon the payment of all applicable registration fees and taxes, plus an additional fee of \$2 to be collected by the county treasurer and remitted to the department, obtain a temporary registration permit from the county treasurer. The temporary registration permit, when issued by the county treasurer, is valid for 60 days from the date of issuance. The purchaser, upon displaying the temporary registration permit in the manner prescribed by the department, may operate the vehicle during the period stated in the temporary registration permit without displaying the number plates or plate for the current year. The county treasurer may not sell, and a person may not purchase, more than one 60-day temporary registration permit for any vehicle, the ownership of which has not changed since the issuance of the previous 60-day temporary registration permit.

(2) The department may authorize the county treasurer to extend the previously issued temporary registration permit for an additional 60-day period if:

(a) an unusual circumstance prevents the owner of a vehicle from presenting the certificate of title within the 60-day period permitted under subsection (1);

(b) the owner requests, on a form prescribed by the department, an extension of the time for which the temporary registration permit is valid and pays a \$10 fee.

(3) Upon the expiration of the second 60-day temporary registration permit, if the purchaser still cannot present the previously issued certificate of title, properly assigned to the purchaser by the prior owner, or if a dispute remains as to any preexisting, perfected security interests created by the prior owner or the owner's assignee, the department may authorize the county treasurer to register the vehicle and advise the purchaser that the registration will not be renewed at the end of the registration period unless:

(a) the previously issued certificate of title has been surrendered to the department, its authorized agent, or the county treasurer and the process for issuing a certificate of title has been completed; or

(b) the purchaser complies with the requirements of 61-3-208.

## Special Mobile Equipment

**61-3-431. Special mobile equipment -- exemption from registration and payment of fees and charges -- identification plate -- special demonstration permit -- publicly owned special mobile equipment.** (1) A person, firm, partnership, or corporation who owns, leases, or rents special mobile equipment as defined in 61-1-104 and occasionally moves that equipment on, over, or across the highways of the state is not subject to registration of that equipment or required to pay the fees and charges provided for in 61-4-301 through 61-4-308 or part 2 of chapter 10. Prior to movement on the highways:

(a) each piece of equipment must display an equipment identification plate or a dealer's license plate attached to the equipment, except for equipment referred to in 61-1-104(2) that is brought into Montana for demonstration purposes;

(b) each piece of equipment referred to in 61-1-104(2) that is brought into Montana for demonstration purposes must have a special demonstration permit conspicuously displayed.

(2) (a) Annual application for the identification plate must be made to the county treasurer before any piece of equipment is moved on the highways. Application must be made on a form furnished by the department, together with the payment of a fee of \$5. The equipment for which a special mobile equipment plate or for which a special demonstration permit is sought is subject to the assessment of personal property taxes on the date application is made for the plate or the date determined pursuant to subsection (4). The personal property taxes assessed against the special mobile equipment must be paid before a special mobile equipment plate may be issued. The fees collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund, except that \$25 of the special demonstration permit fee must be remitted to the department of transportation.

(b) Application must be made for a special demonstration permit as provided in subsection (1)(b). The application must be made to the county treasurer or to a weigh station before the piece of equipment is moved on Montana highways. Application for the special demonstration permit must be made on a form furnished by the department and must be accompanied by the payment of a fee of \$50.

(3) The identification plate expires on December 31 of each year. If the expired identification plate is displayed, an owner of special mobile equipment registered under the provisions of this section is entitled to operate the equipment between January 1 and February 15 following expiration without displaying the identification plate or receipt of the current year.

(4) (a) The special demonstration permit expires 45 days after its issuance. Special mobile equipment that remains in the state past the expiration of the permit is subject to the assessment of personal property taxes, starting on the first day following expiration of the permit.

(b) If the holder of a special demonstration permit leases or sells the piece of equipment during the term that is covered by the permit, the permit is no longer valid and the special mobile equipment is subject to the assessment of personal property taxes, starting on the first day of the lease or the date of the sale.

(5) Publicly owned special mobile equipment and implements of husbandry used exclusively by an owner in the conduct of the owner's farming operations are exempt from this section.

**61-3-432. Exemptions of vehicles not capable of operation on highways.** Track-type tractors, other track mounted machinery and equipment, road rollers, and other similar equipment and machinery which cannot be self-propelled or towed upon the highways of this state and which must be transported by some type of hauling unit, are not subject to this chapter, chapter 4, part 1, chapter 6, chapter 10, part 2, or chapter 12, part 4.

**61-3-433. Issuance of identification plate and receipt -- contents.** The county treasurer shall issue to an applicant for an equipment identification plate a single metal plate with a distinguishing number and a receipt for the fee collected, which receipt shall contain the name and address of the applicant, the number of the plate issued, the serial number of the equipment, and a brief description of that equipment.

**61-3-434. Attaching receipt to equipment -- inspection.** The receipt shall be carried in a suitable container attached to the equipment or immediately available for inspection of any peace officer or highway patrol officer.

### **Vehicle Taxes**

**61-3-501. When vehicle taxes and fees are due.** (1) Light vehicle registration fees, local option vehicle taxes or fees, fees in lieu of tax, and other fees must be paid on the date of registration or reregistration of the vehicle.

(2) (a) If the anniversary date for reregistration of a vehicle passes while the vehicle is owned and held for sale by a licensed new or used car dealer, light vehicle registration fees, local option vehicle taxes or fees, or fees in lieu of tax abate on the vehicle properly reported with the county treasurer until the vehicle is the subject of a retail sale. After the sale, the purchaser shall pay the pro rata balance of the light vehicle registration fees, local option vehicle taxes or fees, or fees in lieu of tax due and owing on the vehicle.

(b) A person selling a vehicle or trading a vehicle to a dealer shall disclose to the purchaser any amount of taxes or fees in lieu of tax that are due or past due on the vehicle at the time the person sells a vehicle or trades a vehicle to a dealer. If the disclosure is not made, the person selling the vehicle or trading the vehicle to the dealer shall pay the taxes or fees. Taxes or fees in lieu of tax that are due or past due on a vehicle at the time that a person sells or trades the vehicle to a dealer must be paid by the person who sold or traded the vehicle to the dealer, unless the person who purchases the vehicle from the dealer agrees in writing to assume the payment of those taxes or fees. This subsection (2)(b) does not apply to fleet vehicles, leased vehicles, or rental return vehicles.

(c) For the purposes of this subsection (2), a retail sale does not include a transfer between any of the following:

- (i) a licensed new motor vehicle or used motor vehicle dealer;
- (ii) another licensed new motor vehicle or used motor vehicle dealer;
- (iii) a licensed wholesaler; or
- (iv) a licensed auto auction.

(3) In the event that a vehicle's registration period is changed under 61-3-315, all light vehicle registration fees, local option vehicle taxes or fees, fees in lieu of tax, and other fees due must be prorated and paid from the last day of the old period until the first day of the new period in which the vehicle is registered. The light vehicle registration fees, local option vehicle taxes or fees, fees in lieu of tax, and other fees must be paid from the first day of the new period for a minimum period of 1 year. When the change is to a later registration period, light vehicle registration fees, local option vehicle taxes or fees, and other fees must be prorated and paid based on the same tax year as the original registration period. Thereafter, during the appropriate anniversary registration period, each vehicle must again be registered or reregistered and all light vehicle registration fees, local option vehicle taxes or fees, and other fees must be paid for a 12-month period.

**61-3-503. Assessment.** (1) Except as provided in 61-3-520 and subsection (4) of this section, the following apply to the taxation of motor vehicles:

(a) Vehicles subject to the provisions of 61-3-313 through 61-3-316 must be assessed as of the first day of the registration period, using the depreciated value of the manufacturer's suggested retail price as determined in subsection (2).



(b) A lien for taxes and fees due on the vehicle occurs on the anniversary date of the registration and continues until the fees and taxes have been paid. If the depreciated value is less than \$500, the department shall value the vehicle at \$500.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsections (2)(c) and (2)(d), the depreciated value for the taxation of light vehicles is computed by multiplying the manufacturer's suggested retail price by a percentage multiplier based on the type and age of the vehicle determined from the following table:

Age of Vehicle (in years)	Automobile	Truck	Van	Sport Utility
-1	100%	100%	100%	100%
0	90	96	93	98
1	80	91	86	94
2	69	86	78	90
3	58	80	69	84
4	49	73	60	76
5	41	66	52	67
6	33	57	45	57
7	26	49	38	48
8	21	43	32	39
9	17	37	27	33
10	14	31	22	29
11	12	26	18	25
12	10	22	15	22
13	09	18	13	21
14	09	15	11	19
15	09	13	09	17
16	09	12	09	15

(b) The age for the light vehicle is determined by subtracting the manufacturer's model year of the vehicle from the calendar year for which the tax is due.

(c) If the value of the vehicle determined under subsection (2)(a) is \$500 or less, the value of the vehicle is \$500 and the value must remain at that amount as long as the vehicle is registered.

(d) The depreciated value of a light vehicle that is 17 years old or older is computed by depreciating the value obtained for the vehicle at 16 years old as determined under subsection (2)(a) by 10% a year until a minimum value of \$500 is attained. The value must remain at that amount as long as the vehicle is registered.

(3) (a) For the purposes of this section, "manufacturer's suggested retail price" means the price suggested by the manufacturer for each given type, style, or model of light vehicle produced and first made available for retail sale by the manufacturer.

(b) The manufacturer's suggested retail price is based on standard equipment of a vehicle and does not contain price additions or deductions for optional accessories.

(c) When a manufacturer's suggested retail price is unavailable for a motor vehicle, the department shall determine an alternative valuation for the vehicle.

(4) The provisions of subsections (1) through (3) do not apply to buses, trucks having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, truck tractors, motorcycles, motor homes, quadricycles, travel trailers, campers, mobile homes or manufactured homes as those terms are defined in 15-1-101(1).

**61-3-506. Rules.** (1) The department of transportation shall adopt rules for the payment of new car taxes under the provisions of 61-3-313 through 61-3-316, 61-3-501, and 61-3-520.

(2) The department of justice may adopt rules:

(a) for the assessment and collection of taxes and fees on light vehicles, including the proration of taxes under 61-3-520;

(b) for the imposition and collection of fees in lieu of tax, including the proration of fees in lieu of tax under 61-3-520, on buses, trucks having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, and truck tractors, including criteria for determining the vehicle's age and manufacturer's rated capacity; and

(c) for the administration of fees for trailers, pole trailers, and semitrailers, including criteria for determining a trailer's age and weight.

**61-3-507. Exemption.** A vehicle that is exempt from taxation and registration fees under 15-6-215 or subject to the provisions of 61-3-520 is exempt from all other taxes and fees generally imposed on a vehicle by this part.

**61-3-509. Disposition of fees.** All registration fees imposed by 61-3-561 from light vehicles, all registration fees imposed by 61-3-522 from motor homes, all fees in lieu of tax imposed by 61-3-527 from motorcycles and quadricycles, and all fees imposed by 61-3-529 from buses, motor vehicles having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, and truck tractors, for which a license is sought and an original application for title that includes a manufacturer's statement of origin is made, must be remitted to the department of revenue every 30 days. The department of revenue shall credit the payments to the state general fund.

**61-3-520. Taxes and fees on vehicles used exclusively in filming motion pictures or television commercials.** (1) A vehicle used exclusively in the filming of motion pictures or television commercials that has been in the state for a period exceeding 180 consecutive days in a calendar year is subject to assessment or a fee in lieu of tax as if the vehicle were not used exclusively for filming motion pictures or television commercials, but the assessment or fee in lieu of tax must be prorated as provided in subsection (2).

(2) The taxes assessed or the fees in lieu of tax imposed under subsection (1) must be prorated by dividing the number of days in excess of 180 consecutive days in the calendar year by 365.

(3) (a) Taxes on a vehicle imposed pursuant to this section must be collected as provided in Title 15, chapter 16, part 1, for the collection of personal property taxes generally.

(b) Fees on a vehicle imposed pursuant to this section must be collected as provided in this chapter.

**61-3-521. Fee in lieu of tax for certain vehicles.** (1) There is a fee in lieu of property tax imposed on motor homes, travel trailers, and campers and on trailers, pole trailers, and semitrailers with a declared weight of less than 26,000 pounds. The fee is in addition to annual registration fees.

(2) The fee imposed by subsection (1) need not be paid by a dealer for vehicles that constitute inventory of the dealership.

**61-3-522. Schedule of fees for motor homes.** (1) The owner of a motor home shall pay a fee based on the age of the motor home according to the following schedule:

less than 2 years old .....	\$250
2 years old and less than 3 years old .....	230
3 years old and less than 4 years old .....	195
4 years old and less than 5 years old .....	150
5 years old and less than 6 years old .....	125
6 years old and less than 7 years old .....	100
7 years old and less than 8 years old .....	75
8 years old and older .....	65

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), the age of a motor home is determined by subtracting the manufacturer's designated model year from the current calendar year.

(b) If the purchase year of a motor home precedes the designated model year of the motor home and the motor home is originally titled in Montana, then the purchase year is considered the model year for the purposes of calculating the fee in lieu of tax.

**61-3-523. One-time fee for travel trailers.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the fee imposed by 61-3-521 on a travel trailer is a one-time fee and is:

(a) for a travel trailer under 16 feet in length, \$25 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year, \$50; and

(b) for a travel trailer 16 feet in length or longer, \$65 in calendar year 2004 and, in each subsequent year, \$130.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), whenever a transfer of ownership of a travel trailer occurs, the one-time fee required under subsection (1) must be paid by the new owner.

(3) The fee need not be paid by a dealer for travel trailers that constitute inventory of the dealership.

**61-3-526. Registration of motor homes and travel trailers -- reregistration by mail allowed.**

(1) All registrations of motor homes and travel trailers expire annually on April 30. Application for registration or reregistration must be made to the county treasurer not later than June 15. Reregistration may be made by mail in the manner provided in 61-3-535. If the ownership of a motor home or travel trailer is transferred during the registration year, it must be reregistered and relicensed as provided by statute.

(2) The owner of a motor home or travel trailer registered under the provisions of this section is entitled to operate such vehicle between May 1 and June 15 without displaying the registration certificate of the current registration year if the owner, during that period, displays upon the motor home or travel trailer the number plates, plate, or decal assigned thereto for the previous registration year.

**61-3-603. Penalty for alteration or forgery of certificate of ownership or certificate of title -- assignment.** A person who alters or forges or causes to be altered or forged any motor vehicle certificate of ownership or certificate of title or any assignment of a certificate of ownership or certificate of title or who holds or uses any certificate or assignment knowing that the certificate has been altered or forged is guilty of a felony. Upon a conviction of a violation of this section, the offender is subject to a fine of not more than \$5,000, to imprisonment for a period of not more than 10 years, or both.

**61-3-604. Penalty for altering identification number.** (1) A person who willfully removes or falsifies an identification number of a motor vehicle or motor vehicle engine is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment in the state prison for a period of not more than 10 years, or both.

(2) Any person or persons, firm, or corporation that sells or offers for sale in this state a vehicle the original vehicle identification number of which has been destroyed, removed, altered, covered, or defaced, with the exception of vehicles bearing a state-assigned identification number in accordance with 61-3-107, is punishable by a fine of not less than \$200 or more than \$500 and by imprisonment in the county jail for a term of not less than 30 days or more than 180 days. Upon a second or subsequent conviction under this subsection, the punishment shall be imprisonment in the state prison for a term of not less than 1 year or more than 5 years or a fine in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, or both.

## **Gainful Occupation**

**61-3-701. Out-of-state vehicles used in gainful occupation to be registered -- reciprocity.** (1) Before a motor vehicle that is registered in another jurisdiction may be operated on the highways of this state for hire, compensation, or profit or before the owner or user of the vehicle uses the vehicle if the owner or user is engaged in gainful occupation or business enterprise in the state, including highway work, the owner of the vehicle shall register the vehicle at the office of a county treasurer or an authorized agent of the department. Upon satisfactory evidence of ownership submitted to the county treasurer or the department's authorized agent and the payment of fees in lieu of taxes or registration fees, if appropriate, as required by 15-8-201, 15-8-202, 15-24-301, 61-3-529, 61-3-537, or 61-3-560 and 61-3-561, the treasurer or authorized agent shall enter the vehicle for registration purposes only on the electronic registry maintained by the department under 61-3-101.

(2) Upon payment of the fees or taxes, the treasurer or the department's authorized agent shall issue to the vehicle owner a registration receipt and the proper license plates or other identification markers. The license plates or identification markers must at all times be displayed upon the vehicle when operated or driven upon roads and highways of this state during the registration period indicated on the receipt.

(3) The registration receipt does not constitute evidence of ownership but must be used only for registration purposes. A Montana certificate of title may not be issued for a vehicle registered under this section.

(4) This section is not applicable to a vehicle covered by a valid and existing reciprocal agreement or declaration entered into under Montana law.

**61-3-702. Foreign vehicles to display number plates.** All foreign registered and licensed motor vehicles shall also carry in plain sight thereon the license plates or device from such other state or foreign country.

**61-3-703. Purpose.** Sections 61-3-701 and 61-3-702 shall be solely for the purpose of taxation, registration, and identification of vehicles operated in this state that have paid a license in another state or foreign country, and otherwise than as herein specifically set forth shall not be construed as a repeal of any laws or parts of laws having to do with the registration or licensing of automobiles within the state.

**61-3-704. Penalty.** Any person operating a vehicle in violation of the intent and purpose of 61-3-701 or 61-3-702 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$10 or more than \$50 or confined in the county jail for not more than 30 days or both such fine and imprisonment.

**61-3-707. Foreign vehicles used for transportation in connection with employment.** (1) (a) Before a motor vehicle taxed pursuant to 15-24-301(4) may be operated in Montana for a calendar quarter, the person responsible for payment of taxes shall apply for and obtain a window decal provided by the department.

(b) Decals must be color-coded to distinguish the four quarterly registration periods of the year.

(c) An applicant may purchase a decal for more than one registration quarter at a time by paying the appropriate amount.

(d) There is a \$2 fee for each decal, and money collected from this fee must be deposited to the county general fund. The \$2 fee is in addition to the tax.

(e) A current window decal must be displayed on the lower right-hand corner of the windshield.

(2) (a) Before a motor vehicle exempted pursuant to 15-6-217 may be operated in Montana, the person responsible for the motor vehicle shall apply for and obtain a window decal from the county treasurer. The department shall supply the decals to the county treasurers.

(b) An application approved by the department must include a verification from the employer that the person is employed by a health care facility in a rural, medically underserved area that experiences difficulty in recruiting and retention of health care professionals.

(c) Decals expire each year on December 31 of the year in which issued, and application for reregistration must be filed with the county treasurer no later than February 15 of each year. Decals must be color-coded to distinguish the year.

(d) A current window decal must be displayed on the lower right-hand corner of the windshield.

**61-3-708. Cooperative or reciprocal registration -- filing of insurance -- fee.** (1) The department may enter into written agreements with agencies of other states to allow for the cooperative or reciprocal state registration of interstate or international motor carriers and authorize the agency of a participating state to:

- (a) issue interstate motor carrier registrations, stamps, and permits;
- (b) accept filings of insurance, financial responsibility, and orders;
- (c) collect and disburse fees;
- (d) share and exchange information for audit, reporting, and enforcement purposes; and
- (e) perform any other function that the department determines is justified to facilitate the cooperative or reciprocal registration.

(2) (a) The department may impose a fee set by rule on an interstate or international motor carrier for the administration of this section. The fee must be paid on each motor vehicle operated by the motor carrier on the public highways of this state. At the time of initial registration and each succeeding year, at a time set by the department, the motor carrier shall pay the fee to the department.

(b) The department shall remit the fee to the state treasurer for deposit in the general fund.

**61-3-709. Identification of ownership of certain large motor vehicles.** (1) (a) A person may not operate a motor vehicle or combination of vehicles, except farm vehicles, having a gross weight of more than 10,000 pounds upon the highways of the state unless there is displayed on both sides of each vehicle operated under its own power, either alone or in combination:

(i) the name or trade name and city and state of the person or corporation under whose jurisdiction the vehicle is being operated; or

(ii) the trade name and department of transportation number of the person or corporation under whose jurisdiction the vehicle is being operated.

(b) The display of name must be in letters in sharp contrast to the background and in size, shape, and color readily legible in daylight from a distance of 50 feet while the vehicle is not in motion. The display must be kept and maintained to remain legible. The display may be accomplished either by painting the information on the vehicle or through the use of a decal or a removable device that is prepared so that it meets the identification and legibility requirements of this section.

(2) This section does not apply to motor vehicles being:

- (a) transported to dealers from point of manufacture;
- (b) transported from one dealer to another;
- (c) demonstrated to a prospective buyer; or
- (d) delivered to a buyer from a dealer or a manufacturer.

**61-3-710. Rulemaking authority.** The department of transportation may adopt and enforce rules for the administration of the single-state registration system, including the setting of a fee, and for other matters necessary to carry out the provisions of 61-3-708 and 61-3-709.

## **International Registration Plan**

**61-3-711. Declaration of policy.** It is the policy of this state to promote and encourage the fullest possible use of its highway system by authorizing the making and execution of motor vehicle reciprocal or proportional registration agreements, arrangements, and declarations with other states, provinces, territories, and countries with respect to vehicles registered in this and such other states, provinces, territories, and countries thus contributing to the economic and social development and growth of this state.

**61-3-712. Definitions.** As used in 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 the following definitions apply:

(1) "Apportionable vehicle" means a vehicle which is used or intended for use in more than one jurisdiction and used for the transportation of persons for hire, compensation, or profit, or designed or used primarily for the transportation of property.

(2) "Fleet" means one or more apportionable vehicles.

(3) "Jurisdiction" means and includes a state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a foreign country, and a state or province of a foreign country.

(4) "Legal residence" means a jurisdiction where the person lives or conducts his business. This residence need not be coupled with the intent to live or conduct the business there on a permanent basis. The use of the word "residence" in 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 shall be confined to the definition given, and shall not be confused with the word "domicile". This definition of "residence" further recognizes that a person may have several residences, but only one domicile.

(5) "Preceding year" means a period of 12 consecutive months fixed by the department of transportation, which period shall be within 18 months immediately preceding the commencement of the registration or license year for which proportional registration is sought. The department in fixing the period shall make it conform to the terms, conditions, and requirements of any applicable agreement or arrangements for the proportional registration of vehicles.

(6) (a) "Properly registered", as applied to place of registration, means:

(i) the jurisdiction where the person registering the vehicle has his legal residence;

(ii) in the case of an apportionable vehicle, the jurisdiction in which it is registered if the enterprise in which the vehicle is used has a place of business therein and if the vehicle is most frequently dispatched, garaged, serviced, maintained, operated, or otherwise controlled in or from the place of business and the vehicle has been assigned to the place of business; or

(iii) in the case of an apportionable vehicle, the jurisdiction where because of an agreement or arrangement between two or more jurisdictions or pursuant to a declaration the vehicle has been registered as required by that jurisdiction.

(b) In case of doubt or dispute as to the proper place of registration of a vehicle, the transportation commission shall make the final determination, but in making the determination, the commission may confer with departments of the other jurisdictions affected.

**61-3-713. Authority of department of transportation.** The department of transportation may execute or make arrangements, agreements, or declarations to carry out 61-3-711 through 61-3-733.

**61-3-714. Authority for reciprocity agreements, provisions, reciprocity standards.** The department of transportation may enter into an agreement or arrangement with the duly authorized representatives of other jurisdictions, granting to vehicles or to owners of vehicles which are properly registered or licensed in those jurisdictions, and for which evidence of compliance is supplied, benefits, privileges, and exemptions from payment, wholly or partially, of any taxes, fees, or other charges imposed upon those vehicles or owners with respect to the operation or ownership of the vehicles under the laws of this state. The agreement or arrangement shall provide that vehicles properly registered or

licensed in this state, when operated upon highways of those other jurisdictions, shall receive exemptions, benefits, and privileges of a similar kind or to a similar degree as are extended to vehicles properly registered or licensed in the jurisdiction when operated in this state. The agreement or arrangement shall, in the judgment of the department, be in the best interests and fair and equitable to this state and its citizens determined on the basis and recognition of the benefits which accrue to the economy of this state from the uninterrupted flow of commerce.

**61-3-715. Base state registration reciprocity.** An agreement or arrangement entered into or a declaration issued under the authority of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 may contain provisions authorizing the registration or licensing in another jurisdiction of vehicles located in or operated from a base in such other jurisdiction, which vehicles otherwise would be required to be registered or licensed in this state; and in such event the exemptions, benefits, and privileges extended by such agreement, arrangement, or declaration shall apply to such vehicles, when properly licensed or registered in such base jurisdiction.

**61-3-716. Proportional registration of fleet vehicles.** (1) If a jurisdiction permits or requires the licensing of fleets of vehicles in interstate or combined interstate and intrastate commerce and payment of registration fees, license fees, taxes, or other fixed fees on those vehicles on an apportionment basis commensurate with and determined by the miles traveled on and the use made of the jurisdiction's highways, as compared with the miles traveled on and the use made of other jurisdiction's highways or any other equitable basis of apportionment, and exempts vehicles registered in any other jurisdiction under this apportionment basis from the requirements of full payment of its own registration, license fees, taxes, or other fixed fees, then the department may, by agreement, adopt exemptions with respect to vehicles of these fleets, whether owned by residents or nonresidents of this state and regardless of where based. An agreement, under the terms, conditions, or restrictions that the department considers proper, may provide that owners of vehicles operated in interstate or combined interstate and intrastate commerce in this state be permitted to pay registration, license fees, taxes, or other fixed fees on an apportionment basis, commensurate with and determined by the miles traveled on and the use made of the highways of this state as compared with the use made of the highways of other jurisdictions or any other equitable basis of apportionment. This agreement may not authorize or be construed to authorize a vehicle so registered to be operated in intrastate commerce in this state unless the owner of the vehicle has been granted intrastate authority or rights by the public service commission if a grant is otherwise required by law.

(2) The department of transportation may adopt rules that it considers necessary to carry out and administer this section, and the registration of fleet vehicles under 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 is subject to the rights, terms, and conditions granted by or contained in any applicable agreement, arrangement, or declaration made by the department. The department of transportation shall adopt rules providing for a change of registration period for a fleet in a case in which the owner of the fleet requests that the registration period be changed to coincide with the registration period of one or more other fleets in the same ownership.

**61-3-717. Declarations of extent of reciprocity.** In the absence of an agreement or arrangement with another jurisdiction, the department may examine the laws and requirements of the jurisdiction and declare the extent and nature of exemptions, benefits, and privileges to be extended to vehicles properly registered or licensed in the other jurisdiction, or to the owners of the vehicles which are in the judgment of the department in the best interests and fair and equitable to this state and its citizens determined on the basis and recognition of the benefits which accrue to the economy of this state from the uninterrupted flow of commerce.

**61-3-718. Extension of reciprocal privileges to lessees authorized.** An agreement or arrangement entered into or a declaration issued under the authority of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 may contain provisions under which a leased vehicle properly registered by the lessor thereof may be entitled, subject to terms and conditions stated therein, to the exemptions, benefits, and privileges extended by such agreement, arrangement, or declaration.

**61-3-719. Automatic reciprocity.** On and after March 7, 1963, if no agreement, arrangement, or declaration is in effect with respect to another jurisdiction as authorized by 61-3-711 through 61-3-733, any vehicle properly registered or licensed in such other jurisdiction, and for which evidence of compliance is supplied, shall receive, when operated in this state, the same exemptions, benefits, and privileges granted by such other jurisdictions to vehicles properly registered in this state. Reciprocity extended under this subsection shall apply to commercial vehicles only when engaged exclusively in interstate commerce.

**61-3-720. Proportional registration not exclusive.** Nothing contained in 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 relating to proportional registration of fleet vehicles shall be construed as requiring any vehicle to be proportionally registered if it is otherwise registered in this state for the operation in which it is engaged, including but not by way of limitation regular registration, temporary registration, or trip permit or registration.

**61-3-721. Proportional registration of fleet vehicles, registration periods, application, fee formula, and payment -- transfer of ownership -- transfer of license plates.** (1) An owner of one or more fleets may register and license each fleet for operation in this state by filing an application with the department of transportation. The application must contain the information pertinent to vehicle registration that is required by the department of transportation.

(2) Each fleet subject to the provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 must, except as provided in 61-3-318(1) and subsection (6) of this section, be registered for an annual registration period based upon the date that the fleet is first registered in this state.

(3) There are four annual registration periods, each of which begins on the first day of a calendar quarter. As used in this subsection, "calendar quarter" means the period of 3 consecutive months ending March 31, June 30, September 30, or December 31. The periods are:

- (a) January 1 through March 31 ..... 1st period
- (b) April 1 through June 30 ..... 2nd period
- (c) July 1 through September 30 ..... 3rd period
- (d) October 1 through December 31 ..... 4th period

(4) Registration of a fleet of apportionable vehicles under subsection (2) must be renewed on or before the last day of the month for the designated annual registration period unless a different registration period has been authorized pursuant to 61-3-716(2). The department shall provide for simultaneous registration of multiple fleets of apportionable vehicles in common ownership.

(5) Except as provided in subsection (6), the application for each fleet may be accompanied by a fee payment computed by:

(a) dividing in-state miles by total fleet miles as defined in the applicable agreement entered into pursuant to 61-3-711 through 61-3-733;

(b) determining the total amount necessary to register each vehicle in the fleet for which registration is requested, based on the regular annual registration fees prescribed by 61-3-321 and chapter 10, part 2, and the property taxes that are due on the fleet;

(c) multiplying the sum obtained under subsection (5)(b) by the fraction obtained under subsection (5)(a).

(6) (a) Each trailer and semitrailer fleet must be registered for a 5-year period based upon the date that the fleet is first registered in this state.



(b) Each trailer and semitrailer in the fleet for which registration is requested must be assessed a registration fee equal to five times the amount prescribed by 61-3-321.

(c) Each trailer or semitrailer must be issued a license plate, a distinctive sticker, or other suitable identification device valid for 5 years from the date of the original application or renewal application.

(d) Registration of a trailer or semitrailer must be renewed on or before the last day of the month for the designated 5-year registration period.

(7) Upon the transfer of ownership of a trailer or semitrailer, the registration of the trailer or semitrailer expires and it is the duty of the transferor to immediately remove the license plates from the trailer or semitrailer.

(8) (a) If the transferor applies for the registration of another trailer or semitrailer at any time during the remainder of the current registration period as shown on the original registration, the transferor may file an application with the department of transportation, accompanied by the original certificate of registration, for the transfer of the license plates. The application for transfer of the license plates must be made by the person or motor carrier in whose name the original license plates to the trailer or semitrailer were issued. The use of the license plates is not legal until the proper transfer of license plates has been made.

(b) License plates may be transferred pursuant to this section without transferring ownership of the trailer or semitrailer for which the license plates were originally issued.

(c) Upon transfer of the license plates, the registration of the trailer or semitrailer from which the license plates were transferred expires. The registration for the trailer or semitrailer must be surrendered to the department of transportation with the application for transfer.

(d) License plates issued for a trailer or semitrailer under this section may be transferred only to a replacement trailer or semitrailer. A license plate fee may not be assessed upon transfer of a license plate.

(9) Applications submitted with fees may be recomputed by the department of transportation. The department of transportation shall furnish a statement showing the overpayment or balance due.

(10) Applications submitted without fees must be computed by the department of transportation. The department of transportation shall furnish a statement showing the amount of fees due.

**61-3-722. Registration and identification of proportionally registered vehicles -- fees -- effect of registration.** (1) The department shall register each proportionally registered vehicle and issue a license plate or plates, a distinctive sticker, or other suitable identification device for each vehicle described in the application upon payment of the appropriate fees and property taxes, as provided by law, for the application and for the license plates, stickers, or devices issued. A fee of \$2 must be paid for each license plate, each sticker, and each device issued for each proportionally registered vehicle. A fee of \$5 must be paid for each vehicle receiving temporary registration as authorized by section 704 of the international registration plan of the American association of motor vehicle administrators, adopted in April 1988. A registration card must be issued for each proportionally registered vehicle. The registration card must, in addition to other information required by chapter 3, show the number of the license, sticker, or other device issued for the proportionally registered vehicle and must be carried in the vehicle at all times.

(2) Fleet vehicles registered and identified as fleet vehicles are considered fully licensed and registered in this state for any type of movement or operation, except that, in those instances in which a grant of authority is required for intrastate movement or operation, the vehicle may not be operated in intrastate commerce in this state unless the owner has been granted intrastate authority by the public service commission and unless the vehicle is being operated in conformity with that authority.

**61-3-723. Proportional registration not applicable in a single jurisdiction.** The right to the privilege and benefits of proportional registration of fleet vehicles extended by 61-3-711 through 61-3-733, or by any contract, agreement, arrangement, or declaration made under the authority thereof, shall be subject to the condition that each fleet vehicle proportionally registered under the authority of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 shall also be proportionally or otherwise properly registered in at least one other jurisdiction during the period for which it is proportionally registered in this state.

**61-3-724. Registration of additional fleet vehicles.** Vehicles acquired by the owner after the commencement of the registration period and subsequently added to a proportionally registered fleet must be proportionally registered by applying the mileage percentage used in the original application for the fleet for the registration period to the regular registration fees due with respect to the vehicle for the remainder of the registration period.

**61-3-725. Withdrawal of fleet vehicles -- procedure, credits, and accounting.** (1) If a vehicle is withdrawn from a proportionally registered fleet during the period for which it is registered, the owner of the fleet shall notify the department of transportation of that fact on forms prescribed by the department. The department may require the owner to surrender proportional registration cards and other identification devices that have been issued with respect to that vehicle. If a vehicle is permanently withdrawn from a proportionally registered fleet because it has been destroyed, sold, or otherwise completely removed from the service of the registrant, the unused portion of the gross vehicle weight fees paid with respect to that vehicle must be credited to the proportional registration account of the owner. This unused portion equals the amount paid with respect to the vehicle when it was first proportionally registered in the registration period, reduced by one-twelfth of the total annual gross vehicle weight fee of the vehicle for each calendar month and fraction of a month elapsing between the first day of the month of the current period in which the vehicle was registered and the date the notice of withdrawal is received by the department. This credit must be applied against liability for additional fees due during the registration period or for additional fees due upon audit under 61-3-728. If a credit is less than \$5, it may not be made or entered. In no event may the amount be credited against fees other than those for the registration period, nor may any amount be subject to refund.

(2) If the owner replaces a vehicle withdrawn from the fleet at the same time as the withdrawal and the replacement vehicle is of the same or of a lesser weight category than the one withdrawn, the gross vehicle weight fees are transferable to the replacement vehicle. If the transfer is to a smaller vehicle, credit may not be given or entered.

**61-3-726. New fleet -- estimated mileage.** The initial application for proportional registration of a fleet shall state the mileage data with respect to the fleet for the preceding year in this and other jurisdictions. If operations were not conducted with this fleet during the preceding year, the application shall contain a full statement of the proposed method of operation and estimates of annual mileage in this state and other jurisdictions. The department shall determine the in-state and total fleet miles to be used in computing the fee payment for the fleet. The department may evaluate and adjust the estimate in the application if it is not satisfied as to the correctness of the estimate.

**61-3-727. Fleet registration -- denial when no reciprocity.** The department may refuse to accept proportional registration applications for the registration of vehicles based in, or owned by residents of, another jurisdiction if the department finds that the other jurisdiction does not grant similar registration privileges to fleet vehicles based in or owned by residents of this state.

**61-3-728. Preservation of proportional registration records.** An owner whose application for proportional registration has been accepted shall preserve the records on which the application is based for a period of 4 years following the year or period upon which the application is based. Upon request of

the department, the owner shall make these records available to the department for audit as to accuracy of computations and payments or pay the reasonable costs of an audit at the owner's home office by an appointed representative of the department. The department may make arrangements with agencies of other jurisdictions administering motor vehicle registration laws for joint audits of the owner.

**61-3-729. Relation to other state laws.** The provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 shall constitute complete authority for the registration of fleet vehicles upon a proportional registration basis without reference to or application of any other statutes of this state except as in this section expressly provided.

**61-3-730. Suspension of reciprocity benefits.** The department may suspend or cancel the exemptions, benefits, or privileges granted under 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 to a person who violates any of the conditions or terms of the agreements, arrangements, or declarations or violates the laws of this state relating to motor vehicles, or rules lawfully adopted thereunder.

**61-3-731. Agreements to be written, filed, and available for distribution.** All agreements, arrangements, or declarations, or amendments thereto, shall be in writing and shall be filed with the department, and the department shall provide copies for public distribution upon request.

**61-3-732. Continued validity of existing reciprocity agreements.** All reciprocity and proportional registration agreements, arrangements, and declarations relating to vehicles in force and effect as of March 7, 1963, shall continue in force and effect until specifically amended or revoked as provided by law or by such agreements or arrangements.

**61-3-733. Law supplemental to motor vehicle registration law.** Sections 61-3-711 through 61-3-732 are supplemental to the motor vehicle registration law of this state.

**61-3-736. Assessment of proportionally registered interstate motor vehicle fleets -- payment of fees required for registration.** (1) (a) The department of transportation shall determine the fee for the purpose of imposing the fee in lieu of tax as provided in 61-3-528 and 61-3-529 on buses, trucks having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, and truck tractors and the light vehicle registration fee under 61-3-560 and 61-3-561 on light vehicles in interstate motor vehicle fleets that are proportionally registered under the provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733. The fee must be apportioned on the ratio of total miles traveled to in-state miles traveled as prescribed by 61-3-721. The fee in lieu of tax or registration fee on interstate motor vehicle fleets is imposed upon application for proportional registration and must be paid by the persons who own or claim the fleet or in whose possession or control the fleet is at the time of the application.

(b) With respect to an original application for a fleet that has a situs in Montana for the purpose of the fee in lieu of tax or registration fee under this part or any other provision of the laws of Montana, the fee in lieu of tax or registration fee on fleet vehicles must be prorated according to the ratio that the remaining number of months in the year bears to the total number of months in the year.

(c) Vehicles subject to the light vehicle registration fee as part of a fleet under this subsection (1) are not subject to the local option vehicle tax or flat fee imposed under 61-3-537 or 61-3-570.

(2) With respect to a renewal application for a fleet, the fee in lieu of tax and the light vehicle registration fee are imposed for a full year. The department of transportation shall prorate the new fee in lieu of tax in 61-3-529 for motor vehicles that are proportionally registered, as provided in 61-3-721, and whose annual registration period does not coincide with the calendar year.

(3) Vehicles contained in a fleet for which current fees have been assessed and paid may not be assessed or charged fees under this section upon presentation to the department of proof of payment of fees for the current registration year. The payment of fleet vehicle fees in lieu of tax, light vehicle

registration fees, and license fees is a condition precedent to proportional registration or reregistration of an interstate motor vehicle fleet.

- (4) All fees collected on motor vehicle fleets under this chapter must be deposited and distributed as provided in 61-3-738.

**61-3-737. Situs in state of proportionally registered fleets -- collection of fees.** (1) For the purposes of this part, any vehicle previously registered or that has had application for registration made under the provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 has a situs in Montana for the purposes of the light vehicle registration fee or the fee in lieu of tax.

(2) The department of transportation shall collect the fleet vehicle registration fees, fees in lieu of tax, and license fees prescribed in this part.

**61-3-738. Deposit and distribution of fees on proportionally registered fleets.** The light vehicle registration fees, fees in lieu of tax and license fees collected under this part must be deposited with the state treasurer in the highway nonrestricted account.

### **Transit Plates**

**61-4-301. Permit and transit plates for new vehicles being transported by driveaway or towaway methods -- used mobile homes.** (1) (a) A person, firm, partnership, or corporation, regularly and lawfully engaged in the transportation of new vehicles over the highways of this state from manufacturing or assembly points to agents of manufacturers and dealers in this state or in other states, territories, or foreign countries or provinces by the driveaway or towaway methods, where the vehicles being driven, towed, or transported by the saddle-mount, towbar, or full-mount methods, or a lawful combination of these methods, will be transported over the highways of the state but once, may annually apply to the department of justice for a permit to use the highways of this state and shall pay, upon filing the application, a fee of \$100. Upon processing of the application, that department shall issue an annual permit to the applicant.

(b) A person moving used mobile homes from a point outside the state to a point inside the state may apply to the department for the permit authorized pursuant to subsection (1)(a).

(2) (a) The permitholder may also apply to the department of justice for five sets of transit plates showing the permit number for identification of the vehicles being transported by the permitholder, and the plates or devices may be used on a vehicle being driven, towed, or transported by and under the control of the permitholder. The department shall collect the additional sum of \$10 for each set of transit plates or devices applied for and issued.

(b) A permitholder may apply for and receive more than five sets of transit plates in a calendar year if the permitholder can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the department, that additional sets of plates are needed based on the number of trip fees reported in Montana in the previous calendar year. The department shall collect \$10 for each additional set of transit plates issued.

(3) The department of justice shall retain the permit and plate fees to defray costs of administering 61-4-301 through 61-4-308.

(4) The permit and transit plates or devices expire on December 31 of each year.

**61-4-302. One-trip fee in addition to permit and plate fees payable quarterly -- exception.**

(1) In addition to the permit and plate fees, a permit holder shall pay to the department of justice a one-trip fee of \$5 per driven vehicle. The fee shall be paid within 15 days after the end of the calendar quarter upon forms recommended or supplied by that department.

(2) A person moving new or used mobile homes is not subject to the one-trip fee required by subsection (1).

**61-4-303. Disposition of funds collected.** The department of justice shall retain 5% of the funds collected in payment of the trip fees to defray costs of administration. The remaining 95% shall be transferred, on or before the 15th day of each month after collection, to the credit of the department of transportation.

**61-4-304. Fees provided for to be in addition to fees now payable under chapter 12, Title 69.** The fees provided for driveaway or towaway transportation are in addition to any fees payable by for-hire carriers under the provisions of chapter 12, Title 69.

**61-4-305. Driveaway or towaway fees in lieu of other fees payable -- election to pay other fees.** The fees provided for driveaway or towaway transporters are in consideration of the right to use the highways of the state and except as provided in 61-4-304 are in lieu of all other fees including those which might be payable under the provisions of part 2 of chapter 10. However, any operator may elect to pay the fees payable under the provisions of that part.

**61-4-306. Exemptions from fees.** The fees provided for driveaway or towaway transporters shall not apply to:

- (1) vehicles regularly used in the hauling of vehicles by the truckaway method or to the vehicles so transported;
- (2) vehicles operated under dealers' licenses or plates;
- (3) vehicles registerable under any other provisions of law;
- (4) any person not issued a driveaway or towaway permit.

**61-4-307. Display of plates.** A vehicle or combination of vehicles transported over the highways of the state by a permitholder shall display in a prominent position thereon the distinctive transit plates or devices, the towing vehicle displaying such on the front thereof and a towed vehicle on the rear thereof.

**61-4-308. List of holders of permits and transit plates.** The department of justice shall furnish the department of transportation a list of the permitholders and of the transit plates or devices issued to those permitholders.

### **Single Movement Permit**

**61-4-310. Single movement permit -- fee -- limitation -- county treasurer to issue.** (1) (a) A vehicle, subject to license under this title, or a mobile home may be moved unladen upon the highways of this state from a point within the state to a point of destination. The county treasurer at the point of the origin of the movement shall issue a special permit for the vehicle in lieu of fees required under 61-3-321 and part 2 of chapter 10 of this title upon application presented to the county treasurer in a form provided by the department, upon exhibiting to the county treasurer proof of ownership and evidence that the personal property taxes on the vehicle, if any are due, have been paid, and upon payment of a fee of \$5. The permit is not in lieu of fees and permits required under 61-4-301 and 61-4-302.

(b) For purposes of this section, a mobile home is considered unladen when all items are removed except the equipment originally installed by the manufacturer and the personal effects of the owners.

(2) The permit is for the transit of the vehicle or mobile home only, and the vehicle or mobile home may not at the time of the transit be used for the transportation of any persons, except the driver, or any property for compensation or otherwise and is for one transit only between the points of origin and destination as set forth in the application and shown on the permit.

(3) A junk vehicle being driven or towed to a motor vehicle wrecking facility or a motor vehicle graveyard for disposal is exempt from the provisions of this section. The definitions in 75-10-501 apply to this subsection.

**61-4-311. Fees credited to general road fund.** All fees collected under 61-4-310 shall belong to the general road fund of the county and be for the use and benefit of that fund.

### **Driver License Requirements**

**61-5-101. Driver licensing responsibilities of department.** (1) The department shall maintain a permanent place of business at the state capital and shall provide the necessary staff, facilities, and equipment for the purpose of providing driver's license services as required by this part.

(2) The department shall provide an examiner to administer a commercial driver's license examination in any county of the state if the examination is previously scheduled through the department.

**61-5-102. Drivers to be licensed.** (1) Except as provided in 61-5-104, a person may not drive a motor vehicle upon a highway in this state unless the person has a valid Montana driver's license. A person may not receive a Montana driver's license until the person surrenders to the department all valid driver's licenses issued by any other jurisdiction. A person may not have in the person's possession or under the person's control more than one valid Montana driver's license at any time.

(2) (a) A license is not valid for the operation of a motorcycle or quadricycle unless the holder of the license has completed the requirements of 61-5-110 and the license has been clearly marked with the words "motorcycle endorsement". A motorcycle endorsement is required for the operation of a quadricycle.

(b) A license is not valid for the operation of a commercial motor vehicle unless the holder of the license has completed the requirements of 61-5-110, the license has been clearly marked with the words "commercial driver's license", and the license bears the proper endorsement for:

- (i) the specific vehicle type or types being operated; or
- (ii) the passengers or type or types of cargo being transported.

(3) When a city or town requires a licensed driver to obtain a local driving license or permit, a license or permit may not be issued unless the applicant presents a state driver's license valid under the provisions of this chapter.

**61-5-103. Residency requirement.** (1) A person who has resided in Montana for more than 120 consecutive days is considered to be a resident for the purpose of being licensed to operate a motor vehicle and must be licensed under the laws of Montana before operating a motor vehicle.

(2) A person who operates a commercial motor vehicle in Montana is considered to be a resident of Montana for the purpose of being licensed to operate a commercial motor vehicle if the person has resided in Montana for more than 30 consecutive days and must be licensed under the laws of Montana before operating any commercial motor vehicle.

**61-5-104. Exemptions.** (1) The following persons are exempt from licensure under this chapter:

(a) a person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States while operating a motor vehicle owned by or leased to the United States government and being operated on official business;

(b) a person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States on active duty in Montana who holds a valid license issued by another state and the spouse of the person who holds a valid license issued by another state and who is not employed in Montana, except as a member of the armed forces. If a spouse of a member of the armed forces becomes gainfully employed in Montana, the spouse must be licensed, as required by 61-5-102, within 90 days of becoming employed.

(c) a person on active duty in the armed forces of the United States and in immediate possession of a valid license issued to that person in a foreign country by the armed forces of the United States, for a period of 45 days from the date of the person's return to the United States;

(d) a person who temporarily drives, operates, or moves a road machine, farm tractor, or implement of husbandry for use in intrastate commerce on a highway;

(e) a person who is a locomotive engineer, assistant engineer, conductor, brake tender, railroad utility person, or other member of the crew of a railroad locomotive or train being operated upon rails, including operation on a railroad crossing a public street, road, or highway. A person employed as described in this subsection is not required to display a driver's license to a law enforcement officer in connection with the operation of a railroad locomotive or train within Montana.

(f) a person who temporarily drives, operates, or moves an off-highway vehicle, as defined in 23-2-801, on a forest development road in this state, as defined in 61-8-110, that has been designated and approved for off-highway vehicle use by the United States forest service if the person:

(i) is under 16 years of age but at least 12 years of age; and

(ii) at the time of driving, operating, or moving the off-highway vehicle, has in the person's possession a certificate showing the successful completion of an off-highway vehicle safety education course approved by the department of fish, wildlife, and parks and is in the physical presence of a person who possesses a license issued under this chapter.

(2) A nonresident who is at least 15 years of age and who is in immediate possession of a valid operator's license issued to the nonresident by the nonresident's home state or country may operate a motor vehicle, except a commercial motor vehicle, in this state.

(3) A nonresident who is in immediate possession of a valid commercial driver's license issued to the nonresident by the nonresident's home jurisdiction, in accordance with the licensing and testing standards of 49 CFR, part 383, may operate a commercial motor vehicle in this state.

(4) A nonresident who is at least 18 years of age, whose home state or country does not require the licensing of operators, may operate a motor vehicle as an operator only, for a period of not more than 90 days in any calendar year, if the motor vehicle is registered in the home state or country of the nonresident.

(5) A driver's license issued under this chapter to a person who enters the United States armed forces, if valid and in effect at the time that the person enters the service, continues in effect so long as the service continues, unless the license is suspended, revoked, or canceled for a cause as provided by law, and for up to 30 days following the date on which the licensee is honorably separated from the service. During the 30-day period, the license is valid only when the license and the licensee's discharge, separation, leave, or furlough papers are in the licensee's immediate possession.

**61-5-105. Who may not be licensed.** The department may not issue a license under this chapter to a person:

(1) who is under 16 years of age unless:

(a) the person is at least 15 years of age and has passed a driver's education course approved by the department and the superintendent of public instruction; or

(b) the person is at least 13 years of age and, because of individual hardship, to be determined by the department, needs a restricted license;

(2) whose license or driving privilege is currently suspended or revoked in this or any state, as evidenced by an ineligible status report from the national driver register, established under 49 U.S.C. 30302, or from the commercial driver's license information system, established under 49 U.S.C. 31309;

(3) who is addicted to the use of alcohol or narcotic drugs;

(4) who has previously been adjudged to be afflicted with or suffering from any mental disability or disease and who, at the time of application, has not been restored to competency by the methods provided by law;

(5) who is required by this chapter to take an examination;

(6) who has not deposited proof of financial responsibility when required under the provisions of chapter 6 of this title;

(7) who has any condition characterized by lapse of consciousness or control, either temporary or prolonged, that is or may become chronic. However, the department may in its discretion issue a license to an otherwise qualified person suffering from a condition if the afflicted person's attending physician attests in writing that the person's condition has stabilized and would not be likely to interfere with that person's ability to operate a motor vehicle safely and, if a commercial driver's license is involved, the person is physically qualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle under applicable state or federal regulations; or

(8) who lacks the functional ability, due to a physical or mental disability or limitation, to safely operate a motor vehicle on the highway.

**61-5-106. Instruction permits -- traffic education learner licenses and permits -- temporary licenses.** (1) The department may issue an instruction permit to a person satisfying the age requirements specified in 61-5-105(1) after the applicant has successfully passed the knowledge test and the vision examination as provided in 61-5-110. An instruction permit entitles the permittee, while in immediate possession of the permit and accompanied by a licensed driver seated beside the permittee, to drive a motor vehicle upon the public highways for a period of 6 months from the date the fees required in 61-5-111 are paid.

(2) The department may issue a traffic education learner license to any person who is at least 14 1/2 years of age and who has successfully completed or is successfully participating in a traffic education course approved by the department and the superintendent of public instruction. A traffic education learner license entitles the licensee to operate a motor vehicle only when accompanied by an approved instructor or licensed parent or guardian and may be restricted to specific times or areas.

(3) (a) An instructor of a traffic education program approved by the department and by the superintendent of public instruction may issue a traffic education permit that is effective for a school year or more restricted period to an applicant who is enrolled in a traffic education program approved by the department and who meets the age requirements specified in 20-7-503.

(b) When in immediate possession of the traffic education permit, the permittee may operate on a designated highway or within a designated area:

(i) a motor vehicle when an approved instructor is seated beside the permittee; or

(ii) a motorcycle or quadricycle when under the immediate and proximate supervision of an approved instructor.

(4) The department may in its discretion issue a temporary driver's permit to an applicant for a driver's license permitting the applicant to operate a motor vehicle while the department is completing its investigation and determination of all facts relative to the applicant's right to receive a driver's license. The temporary driver's permit must be in the permittee's immediate possession while operating a motor vehicle, and it is invalid when the applicant's license has been issued or for good cause has been refused.

(5) The department may in its discretion issue a temporary commercial driver's license to an applicant permitting the applicant to operate a commercial motor vehicle while the department is completing its investigation and determination of all facts relative to the applicant's right to receive a commercial driver's license. The temporary license must be in the applicant's immediate possession while operating a commercial motor vehicle and is invalid when the applicant's license has been issued or for good cause has been refused.

(6) The department may in its discretion issue a temporary medical assessment and rehabilitation driving permit as provided in 61-5-120.

**61-5-107. Application for license, instruction permit, or motorcycle endorsement.** (1) Each application for an instruction permit, driver's license, commercial driver's license, or motorcycle endorsement must be made upon a form furnished by the department. Each application must be accompanied by the proper fee, and payment of the fee entitles the applicant to not more than three



attempts to pass the examination within a period of 6 months from the date of application. A voter registration form for mail registration as prescribed by the secretary of state must be attached to each driver's license application. If the applicant wishes to register to vote, the department shall accept the registration and forward the form to the election administrator.

(2) Each application must include the full legal name, date of birth, sex, residence address of the applicant [and the applicant's social security number], must include a brief description of the applicant, and must provide the following additional information:

(a) the name of each jurisdiction in which the applicant has previously been licensed to drive any type of motor vehicle during the 10-year period immediately preceding the date of the application;

(b) a certification from the applicant that the applicant is not currently subject to a suspension, revocation, disqualification, or withdrawal of a previously issued driver's license or any driving privileges in another jurisdiction and that the applicant does not have a driver's license from another jurisdiction;

(c) a brief description of any physical or mental disability, limitation, or condition that impairs or may impair the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on the highway; and

(d) a brief description of any adaptive equipment or operational restrictions that the applicant relies upon or intends to rely upon to attain the ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on the highway, including the nature of the equipment or restrictions.

[(3) The department shall keep the applicant's social security number from this source confidential, except that the number may be used for purposes of subtitle VI of Title 49 of the U.S.C. or as otherwise permitted by state law administered by the department and may be provided to the department of public health and human services for use in administering Title IV-D of the Social Security Act.]

(4) (a) When an application is received from an applicant who is not ineligible for licensure under 61-5-105 and who was previously licensed by another jurisdiction, the department shall request a copy of the applicant's driving record from each jurisdiction in which the applicant was licensed in the preceding 10-year period. The driving record may be transmitted manually or by electronic medium.

(b) When received, the driving records must be appended to the driver's record created and maintained in this state. The department may rely on information contained in driving records received under this section to determine the appropriate action to be taken against the applicant upon subsequent receipt of a report of a conviction or other conduct requiring suspension or revocation of a driver's license under state law. (Bracketed language terminates on occurrence of contingency--sec. 1, Ch. 27, L. 1999.)

**61-5-108. Application of minors -- imputed liability.** (1) The application of a person who is under 18 years of age for an instruction permit, driver's license, or medical assessment and rehabilitation driving permit must be signed and verified before a person authorized to administer oaths or an employee of the department by a parent of the applicant or, if none is available, by some other responsible adult who is willing to assume the obligation imposed under this chapter upon a person signing the application of a minor.

(2) Any negligence or willful misconduct of a minor who is under 18 years of age when driving a motor vehicle upon a highway must be imputed to a person who has signed the application of the minor for an instruction permit, driver's license, or medical and rehabilitation driving permit. The person who signs the application is jointly and severally liable with the minor for any damages caused by the negligence or willful misconduct unless a motor vehicle liability policy, as provided for in chapter 6 of this title, covering the minor is in effect, in which case there is no imputed liability as described in this section.

**61-5-109. Release from liability.** Any person who has signed the application of a minor for a license may thereafter file with the department a verified written request that the license of said minor so granted be canceled. Thereupon the department shall cancel the license of said minor and the person who signed the application of such minor shall be relieved from the liability imposed under this chapter by

reason of having signed such application on account of any subsequent negligence or willful misconduct of such minor in operating a motor vehicle.

**61-5-110. Records check of applicants -- examination of applicants -- cooperative driver testing programs.** (1) Prior to examining an applicant for a driver's license, the department shall conduct a check of the applicant's driving record by querying the national driver register, established under 49 U.S.C. 30302, and the commercial driver's license information system, established under 49 U.S.C. 31309.

(2) The department shall examine each applicant for a driver's license or motorcycle endorsement, except as otherwise provided in this section. The examination must include a test of the applicant's eyesight, a knowledge test examining the applicant's ability to read and understand highway signs and the applicant's knowledge of the traffic laws of this state, and, except as provided in 61-5-118, a road test or a skills test demonstrating the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle, quadricycle, or motorcycle. The knowledge test or road test, or both, may be waived by the department upon certification of the applicant's successful completion of the test by a certified cooperative driver testing program, as provided in subsection (3).

(3) The department is authorized to certify as a cooperative driver testing program any state-approved high school traffic education course offered by or in cooperation with a school district that employs an approved instructor who has current endorsement from the superintendent of public instruction as a teacher of traffic education or any motorcycle safety training course approved by the board of regents and that employs an approved instructor of motorcycle safety training and who agrees to:

(a) administer standardized knowledge and road tests required by the department to students participating in the district's high school traffic education courses or motorcycle safety training courses approved by the board of regents;

(b) certify the test results to the department; and

(c) comply with regulations of the department, the superintendent of public instruction, and the board of regents.

(4) (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, a resident who has a valid driver's license issued by another jurisdiction may surrender that license for a Montana license of the same class, type, and endorsement upon payment of the required fees and successful completion of a vision examination. In addition, a resident surrendering a commercial driver's license issued by another jurisdiction shall successfully complete any examination required by federal regulations before being issued a commercial driver's license by the department.

(b) The department may require an applicant who surrenders a valid driver's license issued by another jurisdiction to submit to a knowledge and skills test if:

(i) the applicant has a physical or mental disability, limitation, or condition that impairs, or may impair, the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on the highway; and

(ii) the surrendered license does not include readily discernible adaptive equipment or operational restrictions appropriate to the applicant's functional abilities; or

(iii) the applicant wants to remove or modify a restriction imposed on the surrendered license.

(c) When a license from another jurisdiction is surrendered, the department shall notify the issuing agency from the other jurisdiction that the applicant has surrendered the license. If the applicant wants to retain the license from another jurisdiction for identification or other nondriving purposes, the department shall place a distinctive mark on the license, indicating that the license may be used for nondriving purposes only, and return the marked license to the applicant.

**61-5-111. Contents of a driver's license, renewal, renewal by mail, license expirations, grace period, and fees for licenses, permits, and endorsements -- notice of expiration.** (1) The department may appoint county treasurers and other qualified officers to act as its agents for the sale of driver's licenses receipts. The department shall adopt necessary rules governing sales. In areas in which the department provides driver licensing services 3 days or more a week, the department is responsible for sale of receipts and may appoint an agent to sell receipts.

(2) (a) The department, upon receipt of payment of the fees specified in this section, shall issue a driver's license to each qualifying applicant. The license must contain:

- (i) a full-face photograph of the licensee in the size and form prescribed by the department;
- (ii) a distinguishing number issued to the licensee;
- (iii) the full legal name, date of birth, Montana mailing address, and a brief description of the licensee; and
- (iv) either the licensee's customary signature or a digital reproduction of the licensee's customary signature.

(b) The department may not use the licensee's social security number as the distinguishing number unless the licensee expressly authorizes the use. A license is not valid until it is signed by the licensee.

(3) (a) When a person applies for renewal of a driver's license, the department shall conduct a records check in accordance with 61-5-110(1) to determine the applicant's eligibility status and shall test the applicant's eyesight. The department may also require the applicant to submit to a knowledge and skills test if:

- (i) the renewal applicant has a physical or mental disability, limitation, or condition that impairs, or may impair, the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on the highway; and
- (ii) the expired or expiring license does not include adaptive equipment or operational restrictions appropriate to the applicant's functional abilities; or
- (iii) the applicant wants to remove or modify the restrictions stated on the expired or expiring license.

(b) In the case of a commercial driver's license, the department shall, if the information was not provided in a prior licensing cycle, require the renewal applicant to provide the name of each jurisdiction in which the applicant was previously licensed to drive any type of motor vehicle during the 10-year period immediately preceding the date of the renewal application and may also require that the applicant successfully complete a written examination as required by federal regulations.

(c) A person is considered to have applied for renewal of a Montana driver's license if the application is made within 6 months before or 3 months after the expiration of the person's license. Except as provided in subsection (3)(d), a person seeking to renew a driver's license shall appear in person at a Montana driver's examination station.

(d) (i) A person may renew a driver's license by mail if the person certifies that the person is temporarily out of state and will not be returning to the state prior to the expiration of the license.

(ii) An applicant who renews a driver's license by mail shall submit to the department an approved vision examination and a medical evaluation from a licensed physician in addition to the fees required for renewal.

(iii) If the department does not have a digitized photograph or signature record of the renewal applicant from the expiring license, then the department may require the renewal applicant to submit a personal photograph and signature that meets the requirements prescribed by the department.

(iv) The term of a license renewed by mail is 4 years, and a person may not renew by mail for consecutive license terms.

(v) The department may not renew a license by mail if the records check conducted in accordance with 61-5-110(1) shows an ineligible license status for the applicant.

(e) The department shall mail a driver's license renewal notice no earlier than 60 days and no later than 30 days prior to the expiration date of a driver's license. The department shall mail the notice to

the Montana mailing address shown on the driver's license unless the licensee has submitted a change of address as required by 61-5-115.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsections (4)(b) and (4)(c), a license expires on the anniversary of the licensee's birthday 8 years or less after the date of issue or on the licensee's 75th birthday, whichever occurs first.

(b) A license issued to a person who is 75 years of age or older expires on the anniversary of the licensee's birthday 4 years or less after the date of issue.

(c) A license issued to a person who is under 21 years of age expires on the licensee's 21st birthday.

(5) Whenever the department issues an original license to a person under the age of 18 years, the license must be designated and clearly marked as a "provisional license". Any license designated and marked as provisional may be suspended by the department for a period of not more than 12 months when its records disclose that the licensee, subsequent to the issuance of the license, has been guilty of careless or negligent driving.

(6) Fees for driver's licenses are:

(a) driver's license, except a commercial driver's license -- \$5 a year or fraction of a year;

(b) motorcycle endorsement -- 50 cents a year or fraction of a year;

(c) commercial driver's license:

(i) interstate -- \$5 a year or fraction of a year;

(ii) intrastate -- \$3.50 a year or fraction of a year;

(d) renewal notice -- 50 cents.

(7) Upon receipt of notice from another jurisdiction that a person licensed under this chapter has surrendered a Montana driver's license to that jurisdiction, the department shall change the license status on the person's official driver record to "inactive". If the person returns to Montana prior to the expiration of the previously surrendered license, the department may reactivate the license for the remainder of the license term.

**61-5-112. Types and classes of commercial driver's licenses -- classification -- rulemaking -- reciprocity agreements.** (1) The department shall adopt rules that it considers necessary for the safety and welfare of the traveling public governing the classification of commercial driver's licenses and related endorsements and the examination of commercial driver's license applicants and renewal applicants. The rules must:

(a) subject to the exceptions provided in this section, comport with the requirements of 49 CFR, part 383, and the medical qualifications of 49 CFR, part 391;

(b) allow for the issuance of a type 2 (intrastate only) commercial driver's license in accordance with medical qualification and visual acuity standards prescribed by the department;

(c) allow for the issuance of a type 2 commercial driver's license to a person who is 18 years of age or older or an operationally restricted type 2 commercial driver's license to a person who is 16 years of age or older;

(d) allow for issuance of a seasonal commercial driver's license based on standards established by the department for the waiver of the knowledge and skills test for a qualified person employed in farm-related service industries who has a good driving record and sufficient prior driving experience;

(e) prescribe the operational and seasonal restrictions for a seasonal commercial driver's license;

(f) prescribe the requirements for the medical statement that must be submitted in order for a person to be qualified for a type 2 commercial driver's license; and

(g) prescribe the minimum standards for certification of a third-party commercial driver testing program and any test waiver under 61-5-118.

(2) The department is authorized to enter into reciprocal agreements with adjacent states that would allow certain drivers of vehicles transporting farm products, farm machinery, or farm supplies within 150 miles of a farm to operate without a commercial driver's license as provided in 61-1-134(2).

**61-5-113. Restricted licenses.** (1) If, upon an applicant's completion of the vision, knowledge, and skills tests required under 61-5-110, 61-5-111, and 61-5-207, the department determines that an applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on the highway depends on the use of adaptive equipment or operational restrictions, then the department shall include the appropriate restrictions on a license issued to the applicant. Once imposed, the restrictions may not be removed unless the department determines that the adaptive equipment or operational restrictions are no longer essential to the licensee's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on the highway.

(2) The department may either issue a special restricted license or may include the restrictions on the usual license form.

(3) The department may upon receiving satisfactory evidence of a violation of the restrictions of a license or endorsement suspend or revoke the license. The licensee is entitled to a hearing as upon suspension or revocation under this chapter.

(4) It is a misdemeanor for a person to operate a motor vehicle in a manner in violation of the restrictions imposed in a restricted license.

**61-5-114. Duplicate licenses.** If an instruction permit or driver's license issued under the provisions of this chapter is lost or destroyed, the person to whom it was issued may, upon the payment of a fee of \$10, obtain a duplicate or substitute permit or license, upon furnishing proof satisfactory to the department that the permit or license has been lost or destroyed.

**61-5-115. Notice of change of address or name.** Whenever any person after applying for or receiving a driver's license shall move from the address named in such application or in the license issued to him or when the name of a licensee is changed by marriage or otherwise such person shall within 10 days thereafter notify the department in writing of his old and new addresses or of such former and new names and of the number of any license then held by him.

**61-5-116. License to be carried and exhibited on demand.** Every licensee shall have his driver's license in his immediate possession at all times when operating a motor vehicle and shall display the same upon demand of a justice of the peace, a city or municipal judge, a peace officer, a highway patrol officer, or a field deputy or inspector of the department. However, no person charged with violating this section shall be convicted if he produces in court or the office of the arresting officer a driver's license theretofore issued to him and valid at the time of his arrest.

**61-5-117. Rulemaking authority.** The department may adopt rules to implement the issuance and enforcement of classified commercial driver's licenses and shall adopt rules implementing 61-5-118.

**61-5-118. Third-party commercial driver testing program -- test waiver.** (1) The department may certify as a third-party commercial driver testing program any company that:

(a) in the course of its commercial enterprise, customarily transports or hauls any goods, including agricultural commodities, in company-owned class A commercial motor vehicles as prescribed by federal regulations;

(b) regularly and continuously employs a minimum number of drivers. The department shall determine the minimum number of drivers and whether they are regularly and continuously employed by the company.

(c) has a permanent Montana mailing address and maintains a place of business in this state that includes at least one permanent, regularly occupied structure with facilities and equipment to conduct offstreet skills testing;

(d) employs at least one examiner with qualifications required by rules of the department; and

(e) complies with rules adopted by the department under 61-5-112.

(2) The road test or the skills test required by 61-5-110 may be waived by the department for a commercial driver's license applicant upon certification of the applicant's successful completion of the road test or the skills test by:

(a) a third-party commercial driver testing program certified under subsection (1); or

(b) a third-party commercial driver examiner from a jurisdiction that has a comparable third-party commercial driver testing program, as determined by the department.

(3) An examiner for a certified third-party commercial driver testing program may administer a road test or a skills test only to a company employee who has applied to the department for a commercial driver's license and who has passed the knowledge test required by 61-5-110 and by department or federal rules.

**61-5-121. Disposition of fees.** (1) The disposition of the fees from driver's licenses, motorcycle endorsements, commercial driver's licenses, and duplicate driver's licenses provided for in 61-5-114 is as follows:

(a) The amount of 22.3% of each driver's license fee and 25% of each duplicate driver's license fee must be deposited into an account in the state special revenue fund. The department shall transfer the funds from this account to the Montana highway patrol officers' retirement pension trust fund as provided in 19-6-404. The department shall report the amount deposited and transferred under this subsection (1)(a) to the legislative finance committee by October 31 of the year preceding each regular session of the legislature.

(b) (i) If the fees are collected by a county treasurer or other agent of the department, the amount of 2.5% of each driver's license fee and 3.75% of each duplicate driver's license fee must be deposited into the county general fund.

(ii) If the fees are collected by the department, the amount provided for in subsection (1)(b)(i) must be deposited into the state general fund.

(c) (i) If the fee is collected by a county treasurer or other agent of the department, the amount of 3.34% of each motorcycle endorsement must be deposited into the county general fund.

(ii) If the fee is collected by the department, the amount provided for in subsection (1)(c)(i) must be deposited into the state general fund.

(d) The amount of 20.7% of each driver's license fee and 8.75% of each duplicate driver's license fee must be deposited into the state traffic education account.

(e) In addition to the amounts deposited pursuant to subsections (1)(b)(ii) and (1)(c)(ii), the amount of 54.5% of each driver's license fee and 62.5% of each duplicate driver's license fee must be deposited into the state general fund.

(f) If the fee is collected by the county treasurer or other agent of the department, the amount of 2.5% of each commercial driver's license fee must be deposited into the county general fund, otherwise all of the fee must be deposited into the state general fund.

(g) The amount of 63.46% of each motorcycle endorsement fee must be deposited into the state motorcycle safety account in the state special revenue fund, and the amount of 33.2% of each motorcycle endorsement fee must be deposited into the state general fund.

(2) (a) If fees from driver's licenses, commercial driver's licenses, motorcycle endorsements, and duplicate driver's licenses are collected by a county treasurer or other agent of the department, the county treasurer or agent shall deposit the amounts provided for in subsections (1)(b)(i) and (1)(c)(i) into the county general fund. The county treasurer or agent shall then remit to the department of revenue all remaining fees, together with a statement indicating what portion of each fee is to be deposited into the account in the state special revenue fund, as provided in subsection (1)(a), and the state

general fund. The department of revenue, upon receipt of the fees and statement, shall deposit the fees as provided in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(d) through (1)(g).

(b) If fees from driver's licenses, commercial driver's licenses, motorcycle endorsements, and duplicate driver's licenses are collected by the department, it shall remit all fees to the department of revenue, together with a statement indicating what portion of each fee is to be deposited into the account in the state special revenue fund as provided in subsection (1)(a), the state special revenue fund, and the state general fund. The department of revenue, upon receipt of the fees and statement, shall deposit the fees as provided in subsections (1)(a), (1)(b)(ii), (1)(c)(ii), and (1)(d) through (1)(g).

**61-5-125. Authority of department -- rulemaking authority.** (1) The department shall administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter.

(2) The department shall adopt rules setting standards to govern driver's license examinations and reexaminations. The rules:

(a) must specifically address the functional abilities and skills required for a person to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on a highway;

(b) must include minimum uncorrected or corrected visual acuity requirements for both unrestricted and restricted licensure and may include minimum field of vision and depth perception requirements and hearing requirements for unrestricted and restricted licensure;

(c) may direct the design of one or more types of skills tests to assess an applicant's or licensee's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on the highway. A skills test may consist of:

(i) a comprehensive assessment of a person's functional abilities by means of an actual demonstration of the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle; or

(ii) a more limited assessment of a person's functional abilities, conducted at the discretion of the department, as related to a specific physical or mental condition or conditions or a request for reexamination;

(d) must include operational restrictions based upon the visual acuity of an applicant or licensee;

(e) may take into consideration any nationally recognized standards or recommended practices for assessment of a person's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on the highway;

(f) must include appropriate licensing criteria relating to the use of adaptive equipment or operational limits that can be readily discerned by law enforcement or a licensing agency in another jurisdiction;

(g) may be derived from medical guidelines and information compiled by driver licensing medical advisory or review boards from other jurisdictions, as well as information received from advocacy groups for persons with disabilities and senior citizens; and

(h) except as provided in 61-5-105, may not use a person's age or physical or mental disability, limitation, or condition as a justification for denial of a license.

(3) The department may adopt additional rules governing:

(a) acceptable methods of proof of identification that must be supplied by a person upon application for or renewal of a driver's license;

(b) issuance of a hardship license to an underage applicant;

(c) the cancellation of a driver's license upon receipt of an insufficient funds check in payment of license fees;

(d) circumstances under which the department may issue a probationary license to a person whose license has been suspended or revoked or a person whose license is subject to a discretionary suspension or revocation;

(e) restrictions to be imposed upon a probationary license;

(f) renewal of a driver's license by a person in the military assigned to active duty who had a valid Montana driver's license at the time of entering active duty; and

(g) issuance of a duplicate driver's license.

**61-5-206. Authority of department to suspend license or driving privilege or issue probationary license.** (1) The department may suspend the driver's license or driving privilege of a driver without preliminary hearing upon a showing by its records or other sufficient evidence that the licensee:

- (a) has committed or permitted an unlawful or fraudulent use of the license as specified in 61-5-302;
- (b) has falsified the licensee's date of birth on the application for a driver's license;
- (c) is under 21 years of age and has altered the licensee's or another's driver's license or identification card to obtain alcohol; or
- (d) has authorized another to use the licensee's driver's license or identification card to obtain alcohol.

(2) However, the department may, in lieu of suspending the license or driving privilege, issue a probationary license to a driver, without preliminary hearing, upon a showing by its records or other sufficient evidence that the licensee's driving record would authorize suspension as provided in subsection (1). Upon issuance of a probationary license, the licensee is subject to the restrictions set forth in the probationary license. The licensee's driving privilege may be suspended upon conviction or forfeiture of bail not vacated of any traffic violation during the period of probation. The licensee shall surrender to the department all driver's licenses that have been issued to the licensee before the probationary license may be issued. The licensee's refusal or neglect to surrender the licenses upon demand is grounds for suspending all licenses. Probationary licenses may be issued for a period not to exceed 12 months.

(3) Upon suspending the license of any person or upon placing the person on probation, as authorized in this section, the department shall immediately notify the licensee in writing and upon the licensee's request shall afford the licensee an opportunity for a hearing as early as practical, within 20 days after receipt of the request, in the county in which the licensee resides unless the department and the licensee agree that the hearing may be held in some other county. At the hearing, the department through its authorized agent may administer oaths and may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant books and papers and may require a reexamination of the licensee. At the hearing, the department shall either rescind its order of suspension or probation or, for good cause, may affirm, reduce, or extend the period of probation or suspension of the license.

**61-5-212. Driving while license suspended or revoked -- penalty -- seizure of vehicle or rendering vehicle inoperable.** (1) (a) A person commits the offense of driving a motor vehicle during a suspension or revocation period if the person drives:

- (i) a motor vehicle on any public highway of this state at a time when the person's privilege to do so is suspended or revoked in this state or any other state; or
- (ii) a commercial motor vehicle while the person's commercial driver's license is revoked, suspended, or canceled in this state or any other state or the person is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle under federal regulations.

(b) A person convicted of the offense of driving a motor vehicle during a suspension or revocation period shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 2 days or more than 6 months and may be fined not more than \$500.

(2) (a) The department upon receiving a record of the conviction of any person under this section upon a charge of driving a noncommercial vehicle while the person's driver's license or privilege to drive was suspended or revoked shall extend the period of suspension or revocation for an additional 1-year period.

(b) Upon receiving a record of the conviction of any person under this section upon a charge of driving a commercial motor vehicle while the person's commercial driver's license was revoked, suspended, or canceled or the person was disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle under federal regulations, the department shall suspend the person's commercial driver's license in accordance with 61-8-802.



(3) The vehicle owned and operated at the time of an offense under this section by a person whose driver's license is suspended for violating the provisions of 61-8-401, 61-8-402, 61-8-406, 61-8-409, or 61-8-410 must, upon a person's first conviction, be seized or rendered inoperable by the county sheriff of the convicted person's county of residence for a period of 30 days.

(4) The sentencing court shall order the action provided for under subsection (3) and shall specify the date on which the vehicle is to be returned or again rendered operable. The vehicle must be seized or rendered inoperable by the sheriff within 10 days after the conviction.

(5) A convicted person is responsible for all costs associated with actions taken under subsection (3). Joint ownership of the vehicle with another person does not prohibit the actions required by subsection (3) unless the sentencing court determines that those actions would constitute an extreme hardship on a joint owner who is determined to be without fault.

(6) A court may not suspend or defer imposition of penalties provided by this section.

**61-5-213. Conviction defined.** For the purposes of parts 1 through 3 of this chapter and 61-11-101 and 61-11-102 the term "conviction" shall mean a final conviction, except that the department shall record a deferred imposition of sentence as a conviction if the underlying offense is a felony. Also, a forfeiture of bail or collateral deposited to secure a defendant's appearance in court, which forfeiture has not been vacated, shall be equivalent to a conviction.

**61-5-214. Mandatory suspension for failure to appear or pay fine -- administrative fee -- notice.** (1) The department shall suspend the driver's license or driving privilege of a person upon receipt of a report from the court, certified under penalty of law and in a form prescribed by the department, that the person:

(a) is charged with or convicted of a violation of chapters 3 through 10 of this title or fails to comply with a sentence imposed pursuant to 46-18-201;

(b) (i) failed to post the set bond amount or appear upon an issued complaint, summons, or court order;

(ii) after posting a driver's license in lieu of bail, failed to appear upon an issued complaint, summons, or court order; or

(iii) when assessed a fine, costs, or restitution of \$100 or more, failed to pay the fine, costs, or restitution; and

(c) received prior written notice that the driver's license or driving privileges of the person would be suspended upon:

(i) failure to post bond or appear on an issued complaint, summons, or court order;

(ii) failure to appear after posting a driver's license in lieu of bond; or

(iii) failure to pay assessed fines, costs, or restitution.

(2) The suspension continues in effect until the court notifies the department that:

(a) the person has either appeared in court or paid the assessed fines, costs, or restitution; and

(b) the person has paid the court an administrative fee of \$25 if the court was holding the offender's driver's license in lieu of bail under 44-1-1102, 46-9-302, or 46-9-401.

(3) The notice required under this section may be included on the summons or complaint and notice to appear form given to the person when charges are initially filed or may be contained in a court order, either hand-delivered to the person while in court or sent by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to the most current address for that person received by or on record with the court. The initial notice must be followed by a written warning from the court, sent by first-class mail, advising the person that a license suspension is imminent and of the probable consequences of a suspension unless the person appears or pays within a specified number of days.

(4) The court shall deposit any administrative fee received under subsection (2)(b) in the appropriate county or city general fund.

**61-5-302. Unlawful use of license or identification card.** It is a misdemeanor for a person to:

- (1) display or cause or permit to be displayed or have in the person's possession a canceled, revoked, suspended, fictitious, or altered driver's license or identification card;
- (2) lend the person's driver's license or identification card to any other person or knowingly permit its use by another;
- (3) display or represent as one's own any driver's license or identification card not issued to the person;
- (4) fail or refuse to surrender to the department upon its lawful demand a driver's license or identification card that has been suspended, revoked, or canceled;
- (5) use a false or fictitious name in an application for a driver's license or identification card or knowingly make a false statement or knowingly conceal a material fact or otherwise commit a fraud in an application; or
- (6) permit any unlawful use of a driver's license or identification card issued to the person.

**61-5-305. Employing driver without license.** No person shall employ as a commercial vehicle operator any person not then licensed as provided by this chapter.

**61-5-306. Renting motor vehicle to another.** (1) A person may not rent a motor vehicle to any other person unless the latter person is licensed under this chapter or, in the case of a nonresident, licensed under the laws of the state or country of the person's residence except a nonresident whose home state or country does not require that an operator be licensed.

(2) A person may not rent a motor vehicle to another until the person has inspected the driver's license of the proposed renter and compared and verified the signature on the license with the signature of the proposed renter written in the person's presence.

(3) A person may not rent a commercial motor vehicle to another until the person has inspected the driver's license of the proposed renter and determined that the proposed renter has a commercial driver's license.

(4) Every person renting a motor vehicle to another shall keep a record of the registration number of the motor vehicle rented, the name and address of the person to whom the vehicle is rented, and the number and expiration date of the license of the renter. The record is open to inspection by any police officer or officer or employee of the department.

### **Special Speed Limitations**

**61-8-312. Special speed limitations on trucks, truck tractors, and motor-driven cycles.** (1) Except as provided in 61-8-303, 61-8-309, 61-8-310, and subsection (2) of this section, the speed limit for a truck or truck tractor of more than 1 ton "manufacturer's rated capacity" traveling on:

- (a) a federal-aid interstate highway is 65 miles an hour; and
- (b) any other public highway is 60 miles an hour during the daytime and 55 miles an hour during the nighttime as those terms are defined in 61-8-303.

(2) Except as provided in 61-8-303, 61-8-309, and 61-8-310, the speed limit for a vehicle subject to a term permit under 61-10-124(2)(d) or a truck-trailer-trailer or truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer-trailer combination of vehicles subject to special permits under 61-10-124(4) is 55 miles an hour unless otherwise stated in the permit.

(3) A person may not operate a motor-driven cycle at any time mentioned in 61-9-201 at a speed greater than 35 miles an hour unless the motor-driven cycle is equipped with a headlamp or lamps that are adequate to reveal a person or vehicle at a distance of 300 feet ahead.

**61-8-313. Special speed limitations.** (1) A person may not drive a vehicle equipped with solid rubber or cushion tires at a speed greater than 10 miles per hour.

(2) A person may not drive a vehicle over a bridge or other elevated structure constituting a part of a highway at a speed which is greater than the maximum speed which can be maintained with safety to the bridge or structure when the structure is signposted as provided in this section.

(3) The department of transportation upon request from a local authority may, or upon its own initiative shall, conduct an investigation of a bridge or other elevated structure constituting a part of a highway, and if it finds on investigation that the structure cannot safely withstand vehicles traveling at the speed otherwise permissible under this chapter, the commission shall set the maximum speed of vehicles which the structure can withstand, and the department shall erect and maintain suitable signs stating the maximum speed at a distance of not less than 100 feet before each end of the structure.

(4) Upon the trial of a person charged with a violation of this section, proof of the setting of the maximum speed by the commission and the existence of the signs is conclusive evidence of the maximum speed which can be maintained with safety to the bridge or structure.

**61-8-314. Traffic violations in construction zone and work zone -- definitions.** (1) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Construction zone" means an area on a public highway or on the adjacent right-of-way where construction, repair, maintenance, or survey work is being performed by the department of transportation, a local authority, a utility company, or a private contractor under contract with the department of transportation or a local authority. A construction zone may include a work zone.

(b) "Public highway" has the same meaning as in 60-1-103.

(c) "Work zone" means the area where the construction, repair, maintenance, or survey work is actually taking place. The boundaries of the work zone must be clearly identified by the posting of signs.

(2) A person may not operate a motor vehicle in a construction zone or in a work zone on a public highway in violation of any of the provisions of part 3 of this chapter.

(3) The speed limit in a construction zone or in a work zone must be set by the department of transportation or the local authority based on traffic conditions or the condition of the construction, repair, maintenance, or survey project.

(4) (a) If the department of transportation, the local authority, the utility company, or the private contractor determines, based on traffic conditions or the condition of the construction, repair, maintenance, or survey project, that special speed limits in work zones or construction zones are warranted, then the department, the local authority, the utility company, or the private contractor shall post signs that:

(i) conform to the department of transportation's manual on uniform traffic control devices;

(ii) indicate the boundaries of the construction zone and the work zone; and

(iii) display the speed limit in effect within both zones.

(b) The department of transportation, the local authority, the utility company, or the private contractor shall clearly indicate at the boundary of a construction zone that a person who violates any of the provisions of part 3 of this chapter in the work zone is subject to the fine provided in subsection (5)(a).

(c) The boundaries of the work zone may not exceed 500 feet in advance of and beyond the actual construction activity.

(d) The department of transportation, the local authority, the utility company, or the private contractor shall remove or cover the signs when no work is in progress and no hazard exists.

(5) (a) A person convicted of a traffic violation in a work zone is guilty of a misdemeanor. Upon arrest and conviction, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than double the penalty provided for the violation in part 7 of this chapter.

(b) A person convicted of a traffic violation in a construction zone is guilty of a misdemeanor. Upon arrest and conviction, the person is subject to the penalty provided for the violation in part 7 of this chapter.

**61-8-316. Fleeing from or eluding peace officer.** (1) A person operating a motor vehicle commits the offense of fleeing from or eluding a peace officer if a uniformed peace officer operating a police vehicle in the lawful performance of the peace officer's duty gives the person a visual or audible signal by hand, voice, emergency light, or siren directing the person to stop the motor vehicle and the person knowingly fails to obey the signal by increasing the speed of the motor vehicle, continuing at a speed that is 10 or more miles an hour above the applicable speed limit, extinguishing the motor vehicle's lights, or otherwise fleeing from, eluding, or attempting to flee from or elude the peace officer.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), a person convicted of or pleading guilty or nolo contendere to an offense under subsection (1) shall be imprisoned for a term not to exceed 1 year or fined an amount not to exceed \$2,000, or both.

(b) A person convicted of an offense of fleeing from or eluding a peace officer during which the person causes serious bodily injury to or the death of any other person shall be imprisoned for a term not to exceed 10 years or fined an amount not to exceed \$10,000, or both.

61-8-317. Right-of-way for vehicles engaged in mobile highway maintenance. The operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to an authorized vehicle that is engaged in highway maintenance activities when the authorized vehicle is displaying flashing lights that meet the requirements of the department of transportation.

### **Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety**

**61-8-801. Purpose.** (1) The purpose of this part is to reduce the number of commercial motor vehicle accidents in Montana, to provide greater safety to the motoring public and others by establishing stringent criteria governing the operation of commercial motor vehicles, and to deny the privilege of operating commercial motor vehicles upon the public streets and highways to those commercial motor vehicle operators who are not qualified.

(2) To fulfill this purpose, the legislature intends that this part:

(a) establish criteria and procedures for the operation of commercial motor vehicles that require safety practices commensurate with the danger inherent to their operation;

(b) provide for increased administrative punishment for commercial motor vehicle operators who use alcohol while operating commercial motor vehicles;

(c) provide greater control of commercial motor vehicle operators using the streets and highways; and

(d) conform Montana's laws on commercial driver licensing with federal regulations based on the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986, Public Law 99-570, as amended.

**61-8-802. Suspension of commercial driver's license-- disqualification.** (1) Upon receipt of a report of a major offense committed by a person who holds a commercial driver's license or a person required to have a commercial driver's license, the department shall suspend the person's commercial driver's license:

(a) upon receipt of a report of a first major offense, for 1 year, except that if the major offense occurred while operating a commercial motor vehicle transporting placardable hazardous material, the suspension must be for 3 years; or

(b) upon receipt of a report of a second or subsequent major offense arising from an incident that is separate from the prior major offense, for life, subject to department rules adopted to implement federal rules allowing for license reinstatement, if the person is otherwise eligible, upon completion of a minimum suspension period of 10 years.

(2) For purposes of this section, the term "major offense" refers to a refusal to take a test under an implied consent law or a conviction of or forfeiture of bail not vacated for any of the following offenses:

- (a) driving or being in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a drug, or a combination of the two;
- (b) driving or being in actual physical control of:
  - (i) a noncommercial motor vehicle and having an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more; or
  - (ii) a commercial motor vehicle and having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more;
- (c) leaving the scene of an accident involving death or personal injury or failing to give information and render aid;
- (d) using a motor vehicle in the commission of a felony, other than a felony under 61-8-804;
- (e) operating a commercial motor vehicle while the person's commercial driver's license is revoked, suspended, or canceled or the person is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle; or
- (f) causing a fatality through negligent or criminal operation of a commercial motor vehicle.

**61-8-803. Suspension of commercial driver's license -- serious traffic violations.** (1) If the department receives notice from a court or another licensing jurisdiction that a person holding or required to hold a commercial driver's license has been convicted of more than one serious traffic violation in separate incidents within a 3-year period, the department shall suspend the person's commercial driver's license:

- (a) for 60 days upon receipt of notice of the second conviction; or
  - (b) for 120 days upon receipt of notice of the third or subsequent conviction.
- (2) For purposes of this section, "serious traffic violation" means conviction, when operating a commercial motor vehicle, of:
- (a) speeding in excess of 15 miles an hour above a posted speed limit;
  - (b) reckless driving;
  - (c) improper or erratic traffic lane changes;
  - (d) following too closely;
  - (e) a violation of a state law or local ordinance relating to the operation of a motor vehicle, excluding a parking, weight, or equipment violation, that arises in connection with a fatal accident;
  - (f) operating a commercial motor vehicle without a commercial driver's license;
  - (g) operating a commercial motor vehicle without a commercial driver's license in one's possession or refusing to display a commercial driver's license upon request; or
  - (h) operating a commercial motor vehicle without the proper class of commercial driver's license or endorsements, or both, for the specific vehicle type or types being operated or for the passengers or type or types of cargo being transported.

**61-8-804. Suspension of commercial driver's license -- felony involving a controlled substance while driving a commercial vehicle.** If the department receives information that a person who holds or is required to hold a commercial driver's license has been convicted of using a commercial or noncommercial motor vehicle in the commission of a felony involving the manufacture, distribution, or dispensing of a controlled substance, as defined by federal regulations, or a felony involving possession with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense a controlled substance, the department shall suspend the person's commercial driver's license for life and may not reinstate the license at any time for any reason.

**61-8-805. Suspension for operating commercial vehicle with alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more -- hearing.** (1) A person whose alcohol concentration is 0.04 or more while the person drives or is in actual physical control of a commercial motor vehicle is subject to the suspension of the person's commercial driver's license. The peace officer who determines that the person is operating a commercial motor vehicle with an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more shall immediately seize the person's commercial driver's license and, on behalf of the department, give the person written notice of the license suspension and the right to a hearing under 61-8-808. Upon receipt of a report certified under penalty of law from the peace officer that the person was operating a commercial motor vehicle with an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more, the department shall suspend the license, with no provision for a restricted probationary commercial license, for:

(a) 1 year, upon receipt of the first report of a 0.04 or more alcohol concentration violation, except that if the violation occurred in a commercial motor vehicle transporting placardable hazardous materials, the suspension must be for 3 years; and

(b) life, upon receipt of a second or subsequent 0.04 or more alcohol concentration violation report at any time as determined from the records of the department, subject to federal rules allowing for driver rehabilitation and license reinstatement, if otherwise eligible, upon service of a minimum period of 10 years' suspension.

(2) A peace officer who determines that a commercial motor vehicle operator has a measured amount or detected presence of alcohol in the operator's body while operating a commercial motor vehicle shall place the commercial motor vehicle operator out of service as mandated by federal regulations for 24 hours.

(3) The fact that a person charged with a violation of the provisions of subsection (1) is entitled to use alcohol under the laws of Montana is not a defense against a charge of violating the provisions of subsection (1).

(4) For purposes of this section, a conviction for violation of 61-8-401 or 61-8-406 while operating a commercial motor vehicle or a prior refusal to be tested under an implied consent law must be treated as a prior report of a 0.04 or more alcohol concentration violation and must be used in determining the length of the license suspension under subsection (1).

**61-8-806. Blood and breath tests of commercial vehicle operators -- procedure -- suspension.** (1) A person who operates a commercial motor vehicle upon the ways of this state open to the public is considered to have given consent to one or more tests of the person's blood or breath for the purpose of determining a measured amount or detected presence of alcohol in the person's body if the person is requested to submit to the test or tests by a peace officer who has reasonable grounds to believe that the person was driving or in actual physical control of a commercial motor vehicle upon the ways of this state open to the public while having a measured alcohol concentration or detected presence of alcohol. The peace officer may designate the blood or breath test or tests to be administered and may request that the person submit to a preliminary alcohol screening test before a blood, breath, or urine test is taken.

(2) A person who is unconscious or who is otherwise incapable of refusal is considered not to have withdrawn the consent provided in subsection (1).

(3) If a person refuses to submit to one or more tests designated by the officer, the test or tests may not be given, but the officer shall immediately seize the person's commercial driver's license and forward the license to the department, along with a report certified under penalty of law that the officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the person was driving or was in actual physical control of a commercial motor vehicle upon ways of this state open to the public while having a measurable alcohol concentration or detected presence of alcohol and that the person had refused to submit to one or more tests upon the request of the officer. Upon receipt of the report, the department shall suspend the license for a period provided in subsection (5).

(4) Upon seizure of a person's commercial driver's license, the peace officer shall issue, on behalf of the department, a temporary 5-day noncommercial driving permit, effective 12 hours after the time of

issuance, and shall provide the person with written notice of the license suspension and the right to a hearing under 61-8-808.

(5) Upon receipt of the officer's certified report, the department shall suspend the person's commercial driver's license, with no provision for a restricted probationary commercial driver's license, for:

(a) 1 year, upon a first refusal, except that if the violation occurred in a commercial motor vehicle transporting placardable hazardous materials, the suspension for a first refusal must be for 3 years;

(b) life, upon a second or subsequent refusal at any time as determined from the records of the department, subject to department rules adopted to implement federal rules allowing for driver rehabilitation and license reinstatement, if otherwise eligible, upon service of a minimum period of 10 years' suspension. If the person has a prior conviction of a major offense listed in 61-8-802(2) arising from a separate incident, the conviction has the same effect as a previous testing refusal for purposes of this subsection (5)(b).

**61-8-807. Administration of tests.** (1) Tests required under this part must be administered as provided in 61-8-405.

(2) The department may authorize a private individual, institution, or corporation to administer required driving examinations that would otherwise be administered by the department if they have been officially trained and certified to conduct them by the department and the third party has entered into an agreement with the department that complies with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. part 383.75.

**61-8-808. Right of appeal to court.** (1) Within 30 days after notice of the suspension and the right to a hearing has been given by the peace officer under 61-8-805 or 61-8-806, the person may file a petition to challenge the suspension in the district court in the county where the finding of 0.04 or more alcohol concentration or refusal was made.

(2) The court has jurisdiction and shall set the matter for hearing. The court shall give at least 10 days' written notice to the county attorney of the county where the appeal is filed. The county attorney shall represent the state.

(3) The court shall take testimony and examine the facts of the case, except that:

(a) with regard to a suspension under 61-8-805, the issue is limited to whether the person was driving or had actual physical control of a commercial motor vehicle while the person's alcohol concentration was 0.04 or more; and

(b) with regard to a suspension under 61-8-806, the issues are limited to whether a peace officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the person had been driving or was in actual physical control of a commercial motor vehicle upon ways of this state open to the public while the person had a measurable or detectable alcohol concentration, whether the person was ordered to submit to a test, and whether the person refused to submit to the test.

(4) The court shall determine whether the petitioner is entitled to a commercial driver's license or is subject to suspension as provided in this part.

**61-8-809. Leaving the scene of an accident involving commercial motor vehicle -- suspension.** Upon receipt of information that a commercial motor vehicle operator has been convicted of an offense under 61-7-103, 61-7-104, or 61-7-106 while operating a commercial motor vehicle, the department shall suspend the driver's commercial driver's license as provided in 61-8-811.

**61-8-810. Suspension of commercial driver's license -- felony involving a commercial motor vehicle.** Upon receipt of information that a commercial motor vehicle operator has been convicted of using a commercial motor vehicle in the commission of a felony, the department shall suspend the driver's commercial driver's license as provided in 61-8-811.

**61-8-811. Suspension of commercial driver's license -- duration -- second or subsequent offense.** Upon receiving notice pursuant to 61-8-809 or 61-8-810, the department shall suspend a person's commercial driver's license, as follows:

(1) upon notice of a first conviction, for 1 year, with no provision for a probationary license, except that if the offense occurred while operating a commercial motor vehicle transporting hazardous material, the suspension must be for 3 years;

(2) upon notice of a second conviction, as determined from the records of the department, for life, with no provision for a restricted license unless allowed by federal rules governing commercial drivers; and

(3) upon notice of a third conviction, an operator's commercial driver's license must be suspended for life and the operator is ineligible for reinstatement.

**61-8-812. Suspension of commercial driver's license -- operation of out-of-service vehicle.**

(1) Upon receipt of notice from a court of competent jurisdiction or another licensing jurisdiction that a person holding a commercial driver's license has been convicted of violating an out-of-service order, the department shall suspend the person's commercial driver's license for:

(a) 6 months for a first conviction;

(b) 1 year for a second conviction if the vehicle being operated by the person at the time of the violation was not transporting placardable hazardous materials or was not designed or being used to transport more than 15 passengers, inclusive of the driver; and

(c) 3 years:

(i) for a second conviction if the vehicle:

(A) being operated at the time of the violation was transporting placardable hazardous materials; or

(B) was designed or being used to transport more than 15 passengers, inclusive of the driver; and

(ii) for a third or subsequent conviction.

(2) For purposes of this section, an offender is considered to have been previously convicted if less than 10 years have elapsed between the commission of the present offense and a previous conviction.

(3) A temporary or probationary commercial driver's license may not be issued while a commercial driver's license is suspended under subsection (1).



**61-8-813. Suspension of commercial driver's license -- railroad crossing offenses.** (1)

The department shall suspend a person's commercial driver's license upon the report of a conviction of any of the following railroad crossing offenses or conduct:

- (a) for drivers who are not required to always stop:
    - (i) failing to slow down and check that the tracks are clear of an approaching train; or
    - (ii) failing to stop before reaching the crossing if the tracks are not clear;
  - (b) for drivers who are always required to stop, failing to stop before driving onto the crossing;
  - (c) for all drivers:
    - (i) failing to have sufficient space to drive completely through the crossing without stopping;
    - (ii) failing to obey a traffic control device or the directions of an enforcement official at the crossing; or
    - (iii) failing to negotiate a crossing because of insufficient undercarriage clearance.
- (2) Upon receipt of a report of a conviction of any railroad crossing offense or conduct described in subsection (1), the following suspension periods must be imposed:
- (a) 60 days upon a first conviction;
  - (b) 120 days upon a second conviction within a 3-year period; or
  - (c) 1 year upon a third or subsequent conviction within a 3-year period.

**61-8-814. Probationary driver's license ineligibility.** A person whose commercial driver's license or commercial motor vehicle operating privilege is suspended under this part:

- (1) is not eligible for a restricted probationary driver's license that would permit operation of a commercial motor vehicle during the period of suspension; and
- (2) May not operate a commercial motor vehicle until the period of suspension is completed and the person is otherwise eligible, under state and federal law, to have the commercial driver's license restored or to reapply for a commercial driver's license.

## **Professional Tow Trucks**

**61-8-901. Short title.** This part may be cited as the "Montana Professional Tow Truck Act".

**61-8-902. Purpose.** The legislature recognizes that:

- (1) wrecked, disabled, and abandoned motor vehicles on the public roadways create hazards that imperil lives and property and require expeditious removal;
- (2) officers investigating accidents on the public roadways need immediately available towing and recovery vehicles staffed by competent operators and adequately equipped to clear the roadways and remove hazardous obstructions with minimum damage to property;
- (3) certain standards and classifications are needed for professional tow trucks and equipment used for towing and recovering wrecked, disabled, and abandoned motor vehicles or other objects creating hazards on the public roadways;
- (4) encouragement of a competitive and qualified professional towing industry requires establishment of a uniform and equitable qualification system based on the equipment and the standards provided in 61-8-905 through 61-8-907 and a system for the fair consideration of all qualified tow truck companies; and

(5) the use of nonqualified tow truck companies or private motor vehicles to tow or recover for hire wrecked, disabled, or abandoned vehicles creates additional hazards and, except in limited situations, should be prohibited. However, when a person or tow truck company responds in good faith to life-threatening emergency situations, it should not be liable for civil damages for acts or omissions, other than damages occasioned by gross negligence or by willful or wanton acts or omissions.

**61-8-903. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:**

- (1) "Boom" means an engineered structure that is either mechanically or hydraulically operated and that is capable of lifting and supporting an overhead, vertical load.
- (2) "Commercial tow truck operator" or "operator" means a person, firm, or other entity that owns or operates a commercial tow truck as defined in 61-9-416.
- (3) "Department" means the department of justice provided for in 2-15-2001.
- (4) "Local government" means a county, a municipality, or other local board or body that has authority to enact laws relating to traffic.
- (5) (a) "Qualified tow truck operator" means a commercial tow truck operator:
  - (i) that has equipment that:
    - (A) meets the requirements of 61-8-906, 61-8-907, and 61-9-416; and
    - (B) has been classified in accordance with 61-8-905;
  - (ii) that participates in the law enforcement rotation system provided for in 61-8-908;and
  - (iii) that meets the requirements of subsection (5)(b).
- (b) (i) If the operator is a firm or other entity, at least 75% of the employees who operate a tow truck must hold a certification from a nationally recognized certification program for tow truck operators or have a minimum of 1 year of experience in the towing business for hire in Montana.
- (ii) If the operator is an individual, the individual must hold a certification from a nationally recognized certification program for tow truck operators or have a minimum of 1 year of experience in the towing business for hire in Montana.
- (6) "Rotation area" means the base area where a qualified tow truck operator is dispatched and operates. For class C tow truck operators, a rotation area includes at least the entire county in which the operation is located but may be expanded to other counties.
- (7) "Satellite operation" means a second or subsequent operation in another rotation area.

**61-8-904. Prohibition -- exception.** (1) A commercial tow truck operator may not operate for compensation upon the public roadways of this state unless the operator complies with the provisions of 61-8-906(1) and 61-8-907.

(2) A commercial tow truck operator may not participate in the law enforcement rotation system provided for in 61-8-908 unless the operator complies with the provisions of this part.

(3) Sections 61-8-901 through 61-8-908 and 61-8-910 do not apply to a commercial tow truck operator that does not operate for compensation.

**61-8-905. Classification standards.** (1) Commercial tow trucks are divided into the following five classes based on the manufacturer's rating:

(a) Class A tow truck equipment must have a minimum manufacturer's boom or combined boom rating of 4 tons and must be mounted on a truck chassis with a minimum manufacturer's rating of 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

(b) Class B tow truck equipment must have a minimum manufacturer's boom or combined boom rating of 8 tons and must be mounted on a truck chassis with a minimum manufacturer's rating of 18,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

(c) Class C tow truck equipment must have a minimum manufacturer's boom or combined boom rating of 16 tons and must be mounted on a chassis that has a minimum manufacturer's rating of 32,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

(d) Class D tow truck equipment includes manufactured rollbacks and car carriers with manufacturer's gross vehicle ratings of 10,000 pounds and over. The rollbacks and car carriers must be mounted on a truck-trailer chassis that, at a minimum, is equal to the minimum gross weight of the rollback or car carrier. Class D also includes any piece of towing equipment without a boom.

(e) Class E includes two or more tow trucks working together with a combined manufacturer's rating of a minimum of 80,000 pounds with access to supportive equipment, such as forklifts, banders, and air bags, for the recovery of rollovers and wrecked, disabled, and abandoned vehicles whose cargo requires special handling. Class E refers to tow truck companies and not to tow truck equipment.

(2) An operator of noncommercially manufactured or modified tow truck equipment in use on October 1, 1995, that wishes to participate in the law enforcement rotation system must have its equipment classified by the department within a time period set by the department. Once the equipment is classified, further modifications may not be made.

(3) An operator of new noncommercially manufactured or modified tow truck equipment must have its equipment independently certified before participating in the law enforcement rotation system. Once the equipment is classified, further modifications to the equipment must be recertified.

**61-8-906. Liability insurance -- storage requirements.** (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of 61-6-301, a commercial tow truck operator shall continuously provide:

(a) insurance against loss resulting from liability imposed by law for bodily injury or death or damage to property caused by the maintenance or use of a commercial tow truck, as defined in 61-9-416, or occurring on the business premises of a commercial tow truck operator in an amount not less than:

- (i) \$300,000 for class A tow trucks;
- (ii) \$500,000 for class B tow trucks; and
- (iii) \$750,000 for class C tow trucks;

(b) insurance in an amount not less than \$20,000 to cover the damage to cargo or other property entrusted to the care of the commercial tow truck operator; and

(c) garage or on-hook liability insurance in an amount not less than \$50,000.

(2) A commercial tow truck operator shall provide proof of the insurance required in subsection (1) to the public service commission.

(3) A qualified tow truck operator shall provide a storage facility, either a fenced lot or a building, that is:

- (a) adequate for the secure storage and safekeeping of stored vehicles;
- (b) located in a place that is reasonably convenient for public access;
- (c) available to public access between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays;
- (d) large enough to store all the vehicles towed for law enforcement agencies; and
- (e) if a fenced lot, constructed of chain link at least 6 feet high or constructed of materials and in a manner sufficient to deter trespassing or vandalism.

**61-8-907. Inspection -- fees -- decal.** (1) The tow truck equipment of a commercial tow truck operator must have an annual safety inspection. A highway patrol officer, an employee of the department of transportation appointed as a peace officer in accordance with 61-12-201, or an inspector certified by the department shall conduct the inspection and require the commercial tow truck operator to provide proof of compliance with the provisions of 61-8-906.

(2) (a) Upon satisfactory completion of the inspection and verification of the insurance requirements, a decal showing the last inspection date and the expiration date of the insurance coverage must be affixed in a prominent place on the tow truck.

(b) If the commercial tow truck operator is participating in the law enforcement rotation system, the decal must also show the classification of the operator's tow truck equipment.

(3) The department may establish inspection and decal fees that may not exceed the actual costs of the inspection and the decal. The fees for the inspection and decal must be deposited in the state highway account in the state special revenue fund.

**61-8-908. State law enforcement rotation system -- local government rotation system.** (1)

The department shall establish and maintain an equitable rotation system among qualified tow truck operators that apply to the department in writing to be placed on the system. The rotation system:

(a) must be administered by the highway patrol in a manner that will give priority to public safety;

(b) must be based on the classification of equipment as provided in 61-8-905; and

(c) may include only qualified tow truck operators.

(2) Each qualified tow truck operator participating in the rotation system shall have available and show upon the request of a law enforcement officer:

(a) all Montana motor vehicle identification numbers or department of transportation numbers for the operator's tow trucks operating in the rotation system;

(b) the operator's federal tax identification number; and

(c) the operator's company phone number and street address.

(3) (a) If more than one qualified tow truck operator using a single storage or impoundment facility applies to be placed on the rotation system, the operators shall provide to the complaint resolution committee established in 61-8-912 information regarding each operator's individual accounting system, the information required in subsection (2), and proof that each operator has the insurance required in 61-8-906.

(b) Based on the information provided to it pursuant to subsection (3)(a), the complaint resolution committee shall, upon written request, verify that operators using a single storage or impoundment facility applying to be placed on the rotation system have individual accounting systems, adequate identification information, and individual insurance policies.

(4) Only one qualified tow truck operation for each owner may be included on a rotation area list.

(5) (a) An owner of a qualified tow truck operation who has an existing tow truck operation in a rotation area separate from the rotation area where the owner is participating in the rotation system may establish a satellite operation to be included on a rotation area list if:

(i) the owner has a business office in the second rotation area;

(ii) the business office is open and accessible from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday;

(iii) the facilities have a secure yard as provided in 61-8-906(3)(e); and

(iv) the tow truck operation has a local 24-hour phone number.

(b) Any charges for towing service from the satellite operation must be calculated from the satellite operation area and not the area of the owner's base operation.

(6) The rotation system is not applicable when the owner or driver of a wrecked or disabled vehicle obstructing a public roadway requests a tow truck operator of the owner's or driver's choice and the operator meets the insurance requirements provided in 61-8-906 and the safety inspection requirements provided in 61-8-907.

(7) (a) (i) The law enforcement officer at the scene of the wreck shall call the qualified tow truck operator that is next on the rotation list if:

(A) a request for a tow truck is not made by the owner or driver;

(B) the requested tow truck cannot respond in a timely manner; or

(C) the law enforcement officer determines that the requested tow truck is unable to handle the wrecked or disabled vehicle.

(ii) If the qualified tow truck operator is not classified to handle the wrecked or disabled vehicle, the officer shall call the qualified tow truck operator next on the rotation list that is classified to handle the wrecked or disabled vehicle.

(b) If a qualified tow truck operator classified to handle the wrecked or disabled vehicle is not reasonably available, the law enforcement officer may request other equipment to remove the hazard.

(8) The department shall administer the state law enforcement rotation system. A qualified tow truck operator may examine the rotation system schedule established by the department in order to determine if the system is being administered in an equitable manner.

(9) A qualified tow truck operator gives implied consent to a reasonable inspection during normal business hours of its premises, vehicles, and equipment by the department of transportation, highway patrol, or a local government to ensure compliance with this part.

(10) A local law enforcement agency may adopt and administer a local law enforcement rotation system that complies with the provisions of this part. A tow truck operator desiring to be placed on the local law enforcement rotation system must be a qualified tow truck operator as provided in this part.

(11) The highway patrol or local law enforcement shall provide upon request a record of rotation system calls for all classes of tow trucks.

(12) Complaints about the rotation system must be referred in writing to the complaint resolution committee established in 61-8-912.

**61-8-909. Good faith immunity.** A person who renders assistance in an emergency that is life-threatening to the occupant of a wrecked, disabled, or abandoned vehicle or that is creating an immediate hazard on a public roadway or who renders emergency assistance as directed by a law enforcement officer or other emergency responder at the scene of a motor vehicle accident is immune from damages arising from acts or omissions related to the rendering of assistance unless the damages are occasioned by the gross negligence or by the willful or wanton acts or omissions of the person rendering the assistance.

**61-8-910. Violation -- penalty.** A commercial tow truck operator that violates a provision of this part is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to the penalty provided in 61-8-711.

**61-8-911. Rulemaking authority.** The department shall adopt reasonable and necessary rules to administer the provisions of this part.

**61-8-912. Tow truck complaint resolution committee -- membership -- responsibilities.** (1) The department shall establish a tow truck complaint resolution committee, and the attorney general shall appoint the members. Committee members serve 3-year terms, may serve more than one term, and must include:

(a) two representatives of the tow truck industry, one from the eastern half of the state and one from the western half of the state;

(b) a representative of the commercial motor carrier industry;

(c) a member of the public;

(d) a representative of the insurance industry; and

(e) a representative of the highway patrol.

(2) The committee shall meet as often as necessary, either in person or by teleconference, to review and resolve complaints about tow truck issues, including towing charges, that are submitted in writing to a committee member and to review information submitted to it as provided in this part.

(3) The department shall establish rules to govern the committee's procedure for reviewing and resolving complaints.

## **Vehicle Equipment - General Provisions**

**61-9-101. Application -- exceptions.** (1) The provisions of this chapter relating to the operation of vehicles refer exclusively to the operation of vehicles upon highways except where a different place is specifically referred to in a given section.

(2) The operation of motor vehicles directly across the public roads and highways of this state, especially as required in the transportation of natural resource products, including agricultural products and livestock, may not be considered to be the operation of the vehicles on the public roads and highways of this state. The crossings must be adequately marked with warning signs or devices relating to stopping before entry and to restoration of any damage, as may reasonably be prescribed by the state or local agency in control of safety of operation of the public highway involved.

(3) If a provision of this chapter conflicts with federal laws or regulations governing motor vehicle equipment standards, the applicable federal law or regulation supersedes.

**61-9-102. Uniformity of interpretation.** This chapter shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact it.

**61-9-103. Provisions uniform throughout state -- power of local authorities.** The provisions of this chapter shall be applicable and uniform throughout this state and in all political subdivisions and municipalities therein and no local authority shall enact or enforce any ordinance, rule, or regulation in conflict with the provisions of this chapter unless expressly authorized herein. Local authorities may, however, adopt additional traffic regulations which are not in conflict with the provisions of this chapter.

**61-9-104. Required obedience to traffic laws.** It is unlawful and, unless otherwise declared in this chapter with respect to particular offenses, it is a misdemeanor punishable as provided in 61-9-511 for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required in this chapter.

**61-9-105. Obedience to peace officers, highway patrol officers, and public safety workers.** A person may not willfully fail or refuse to comply with a lawful order or direction of a peace officer, highway patrol officer, or public safety worker pertaining to the use of the highways by traffic. For purposes of this section, "public safety worker" means a person who is authorized to provide assistance at the scene of an incident that requires traffic control and who is either a member of a paid or volunteer fire department, an emergency medical service provider, a member of a search and rescue team, or a civilian accident investigator appointed by a law enforcement agency.

**61-9-106. Responsibility of public officers and employees.** (1) The provisions of this chapter applicable to the drivers of vehicles upon the highways shall apply to the drivers of all vehicles owned or operated by the United States, this state, or any county, city, or town, district, or any other political subdivision of the state, except as provided in this section and subject to such specific exceptions as are set forth in this chapter with reference to authorized emergency vehicles.

(2) Unless specifically made applicable, the provisions of this chapter except those contained in part 5 of chapter 8 shall not apply to persons, teams, motor vehicles, and other equipment while actually engaged in work upon the surface of a highway but shall apply to such persons and vehicles when traveling to or from such work.

**61-9-107. Traffic laws applicable to persons driving animal-drawn vehicles.** Every person driving an animal-drawn vehicle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this chapter, except those provisions of this chapter which by their very nature can have no application.

**61-9-108. Rights of owners of real property not affected -- when.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent the owner of real property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel by permission of the owner from prohibiting such use or from requiring other or different or additional conditions than those specified in this chapter, or otherwise regulating such use as may seem best to such owner.

**61-9-109. Driving vehicle in unsafe condition prohibited -- applicability of chapter.** (1) It is a misdemeanor for a person to drive or permit to be driven on a highway a vehicle or combination of vehicles that:

- (a) is in such unsafe condition as to endanger a person;
- (b) is not equipped with lamps and other equipment as required in this chapter; or
- (c) is equipped in a manner in violation of this chapter.

(2) It is a misdemeanor for a person to perform an act forbidden or fail to perform an act required under this chapter.

(3) The use of additional parts and accessories on a vehicle not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter is not prohibited.

(4) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to implements of husbandry, road machinery, road rollers, or farm tractors except as made applicable in this chapter.

(5) All lamps and equipment required by this chapter must be maintained in proper working order and adjustment at all times.

### **Vehicle Equipment - Lighting Equipment**

**61-9-201. When lighted lamps are required.** Every vehicle upon a highway within this state at any time from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise and at any other time when due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions persons and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet ahead shall display lighted lamps and illuminating devices as hereinafter respectively required for different classes of vehicles, subject to exceptions with respect to parked vehicles.

**61-9-202. Visibility distance and mounted height of lamps.** (1) Whenever requirement is hereinafter declared as to the distance from which certain lamps and devices shall render objects visible or within which such lamps or devices shall be visible, said provisions shall apply during the times stated in 61-9-201 in respect to a vehicle without load when upon a straight, level, unlighted highway under normal atmospheric conditions unless a different time or condition is expressly stated.

(2) Whenever requirement is hereinafter declared as to the mounted height of lamps or devices it shall mean from the center of such lamp or device to the level ground upon which the vehicle stands when such vehicle is without a load.

**61-9-203. Headlamps on motor vehicles.** (1) A motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, quadricycle, or motor-driven cycle must be equipped with at least two headlamps, with at least one on each side of the front of the motor vehicle, that comply with the requirements and limitations set forth in this chapter.

(2) A motorcycle, quadricycle, or motor-driven cycle must be equipped with at least one and not more than two headlamps that comply with the requirements and limitations of this chapter. If a motorcycle is registered under 61-3-411 as a collector's item, it need not be equipped with headlamps; however, if it is not equipped with headlamps, it may not be operated upon a highway or street from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise or if persons and vehicles are not clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet. A motorcycle may be equipped with a means of modulating the high beam of its headlamps between high and low beam at a rate of 200 to 280 flashes a minute; however, an operator may

not modulate the headlamps at that rate during periods when headlamps are required to be lighted by 61-9-201.

(3) A headlamp upon a motor vehicle, including a motorcycle, quadricycle, and motor-driven cycle, must be located at a height, measured from the center of the headlamp, of not more than 54 inches or less than 22 inches, to be measured as provided in 61-9-202(2).

(4) When headlamps are required to be lighted by 61-9-201, a person may not operate a motor vehicle on a highway with headlamps that are composed of, covered by, or treated with a tinted or colored material, substance, system, or component that obscures the headlamps or diminishes the distance of visibility required by this section.

(5) This section does not prohibit the operation or sale of a motor vehicle the headlamps of which are composed of, covered by, or treated with a tinted or colored material, substance, system, or component with which the vehicle was sold or could have been equipped for sale when new as standard or optional equipment in compliance with federal statute or regulation governing the sale at the time of manufacture.

**61-9-204. Taillamps.** (1) A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer and any other vehicle that is being drawn at the end of a combination of vehicles must be equipped with at least one properly functioning taillamp mounted on the rear that emits a red light plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear, except that in the case of a combination of vehicles, only the taillamp on the rearmost vehicle need actually be seen from the distance specified. The vehicles mentioned in this subsection, other than a motorcycle, quadricycle, motor-driven cycle, or truck tractor, registered in this state and manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1956, must be equipped with at least two properly functioning taillamps mounted on the rear that emit a red light plainly visible from a distance of 1,000 feet to the rear of the vehicle.

(2) A taillamp upon a vehicle must be located at a height of not more than 72 inches or less than 15 inches.

(3) Either a taillamp or a separate lamp must illuminate with a white light the rear registration plate and render it clearly legible from a distance of 50 feet to the rear. A taillamp or taillamps, together with a separate lamp for illuminating the rear registration plate, must be lighted whenever the headlamps are lighted.

(4) Taillamps are not required on a motorcycle that is registered under 61-3-411 as a collector's item, but the motorcycle may not be operated on a highway or street from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise or when persons and vehicles are not clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet unless it is equipped with the required taillamps.

(5) A person may not operate a motor vehicle on a highway with taillamps that are covered by a lens or a plastic cover or with a tinted or colored material, substance, system, or component placed on or in front of rear lamps, taillamps, license plate lamps, or rear lamp combinations that obscures the taillamps or diminishes the distance of visibility required by this section.

(6) This section does not prohibit a vehicle manufactured prior to 1960 from being equipped with a taillamp that includes within the red cover a center lens that is blue in color.

**61-9-205. New motor vehicles to be equipped with reflectors.** (1) Every new motor vehicle hereafter sold and operated upon a highway, other than a truck tractor, shall carry on the rear, either as a part of the taillamps or separately, two red reflectors, except that every motorcycle, quadricycle, and motor-driven cycle shall carry at least one reflector meeting the requirements of this section, and except that vehicles of the type mentioned in 61-9-208 shall be equipped with reflectors as required in those sections applicable thereto.

(2) Every such reflector shall be mounted on the vehicle at a height not less than 15 inches or more than 60 inches measured as set forth in 61-9-202(2) and shall be of such size and characteristics and so mounted as to be visible at night from all distances within 300 feet to 50 feet from such vehicle when



directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps, except that visibility from a greater distance may be required of reflectors on certain types of vehicles.

**61-9-206. Stop lamps -- when required.** (1) A person may not sell a new motor vehicle in this state or drive a vehicle on the highways unless it is equipped with at least two properly functioning stop lamps. A vehicle manufactured before January 1, 1956, and all motorcycles, quadricycles, and motor-driven cycles must be equipped with at least one properly functioning stop lamp.

(2) The stop lamp or lamps on the rear of a vehicle must display a red light that is actuated upon application of the service (foot) brake and, in a vehicle manufactured or assembled on or after January 1, 1964, must be visible from a distance of not less than 300 feet to the rear in normal sunlight. In a vehicle manufactured or assembled before January 1, 1964, the stop lamp or lamps must be visible from a distance of not less than 100 feet. The stop lamp may be incorporated with one or more other rear lamps.

(3) A stop lamp may not project a glaring light.

**61-9-207. Application of succeeding sections.** Sections 61-9-208 through 61-9-229 apply as stated in those sections to vehicles of the type enumerated in those sections when operated upon a highway. The vehicles must be equipped as required and all lamp equipment required must be lighted at all times mentioned in 61-9-201 except that clearance and side marker lamps need not be lighted on a vehicle when operated within a municipality when there is sufficient light to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles on the highway at a distance of 1,000 feet.

**61-9-208. Additional equipment required on certain vehicles.** In addition to other equipment required in this chapter, the following vehicles must be equipped as stated in this section under the conditions stated in 61-9-207:

- (1) On a bus or truck there must be on the rear, two reflectors, one at each side.
- (2) On a bus or truck 80 inches or more in overall width, in addition to the requirements in subsection (1):
  - (a) on the front, two clearance lamps, one at each side;
  - (b) on the rear, two clearance lamps, one at each side;
  - (c) on each side, two side marker lamps, one at or near the front and one at or near the rear;
  - (d) on each side, two reflectors, one at or near the front and one at or near the rear.
- (3) On a truck tractor, on the front, two clearance lamps, one at each side.
- (4) On a trailer or semitrailer having a gross weight in excess of 3,000 pounds:
  - (a) on the front, two clearance lamps, one at each side;
  - (b) on each side, two side marker lamps, one at or near the front and one at or near the rear;
  - (c) on each side, two reflectors, one at or near the front and one at or near the rear;
  - (d) on the rear, two clearance lamps, one at each side, also two reflectors, one at each side.
- (5) On a pole trailer in excess of 3,000 pounds gross weight:
  - (a) on each side, one side marker lamp and one clearance lamp that may be in combination, to show to the front, side, and rear; and
  - (b) on the rear of the pole trailer or load, two reflectors, one at each side.
- (6) On a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer weighing 3,000 pounds or less:
  - (a) on the front, a steel safety chain or cable that must be securely fastened to the towing unit with the minimum diameter of any portion of the chains or cables being one-fourth of an inch. A safety chain or cable may not be connected to the ball but must be connected to the hitch or other frame member of the towing vehicle to prevent the drawbar from dropping to the ground if the ball, socket, or coupler fails;
  - (b) on the rear, two reflectors and two stoplights, one on each side.

**61-9-209. Color of clearance lamps, side marker lamps, reflectors, and backup lamps.** (1) Front clearance lamps and those marker lamps and reflectors mounted on the front or on the side near the front of a vehicle must display or reflect an amber color.

(2) Rear clearance lamps and those marker lamps and reflectors mounted on the rear or on the sides near the rear of a vehicle must display or reflect a red color.

(3) All lighting devices, reflectors, and stoplights mounted on the rear of a vehicle must display or reflect a red color, except:

- (a) the signal devices, as defined in 61-9-218;
- (b) the light illuminating the license plate that must be a white lamp; and
- (c) the light emitted by a backup lamp that must be white.

**61-9-210. Mounting of reflectors, clearance lamps, and side marker lamps.** (1) Reflectors when required by 61-9-208 shall be mounted at a height not less than 24 inches and not higher than 60 inches above the ground on which the vehicle stands, except that if the highest part of the permanent structure of the vehicle is less than 24 inches the reflector at such point shall be mounted as high as that part of the permanent structure will permit.

(2) The rear reflectors on a pole trailer may be mounted on each side of the bolster or load.

(3) Any required red reflector on the rear of a vehicle may be incorporated with the taillamp, but such reflector shall meet all the other reflector requirements of this chapter.

(4) Clearance lamps shall be mounted on the permanent structure of the vehicle in such a manner as to indicate its extreme width and as near the top thereof as practicable. Clearance lamps and side marker lamps may be mounted in combination provided illumination is given as required herein with reference to both.

**61-9-211. Visibility of reflectors, clearance lamps, and marker lamps.** (1) Every reflector upon any vehicle referred to in 61-9-208 shall be of such size and characteristics and so maintained as to be readily visible at nighttime from all distances within 600 feet to 100 feet from the vehicle when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps. Reflectors required to be mounted on the sides of the vehicle shall reflect the required color of light to the sides, and those mounted on the rear shall reflect a red color to the rear.

(2) Front and rear clearance lamps shall be capable of being seen and distinguished under normal atmospheric conditions, at the times lights are required, at a distance of 500 feet from the front and rear respectively of the vehicle.

(3) Side marker lamps shall be capable of being seen and distinguished under normal atmospheric conditions, at the times lights are required, at a distance of 500 feet from the side of the vehicle on which mounted.

**61-9-212. Obstructed lights not required.** Whenever motor and other vehicles are operated in combination during the time that lights are required, any lamp (except taillamps) need not be lighted which, by reason of its location on a vehicle of the combination, would be obscured by another vehicle of the combination, but this shall not affect the requirements that lighted clearance lamps be displayed on the front of the foremost vehicle required to have clearance lamps or that all lights required on the rear of the rearmost vehicle of any combination shall be lighted.

**61-9-213. Lamp or flag on projecting load.** (1) Whenever the load upon a vehicle extends to the rear 4 feet or more beyond the rear of the vehicle, the following lamps and reflectors must be displayed at the extreme rear end of the load, at the times specified in 61-9-201:

(a) a red lamp plainly visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the sides and 1,000 feet to the rear and located to indicate maximum overhang; and

(b) a red reflector visible at night at all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps.

(2) The red lights and reflectors required under this section must be in addition to the red lights required upon a vehicle. At any other time there must be displayed at the extreme rear end of the load a red flag or cloth not less than 12 inches square, marking the extremities of the load, at each point where a lamp or reflector would otherwise be required by this section.

**61-9-214. Lamps on parked vehicles.** (1) Whenever a vehicle is lawfully parked upon a street or highway during the hours between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise and in the event there is sufficient light to reveal any person or object within a distance of 500 feet upon such street or highway no lights need be displayed upon such parked vehicle.

(2) Whenever a vehicle is parked or stopped upon a roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto, whether attended or unattended, during the hours between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise and there is not sufficient light to reveal any person or object within a distance of 500 feet upon such highway, such vehicle so parked or stopped shall be equipped with one or more lamps meeting the following requirements: at least one lamp shall display a white or amber light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle, and the same lamp or at least one other lamp shall display a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear of the vehicle, and the location of said lamp or lamps, shall always be such that at least one lamp or combination of lamps meeting the requirements of this section is installed as near as practicable to the side of the vehicle which is closest to passing traffic. The foregoing provisions shall not apply to a motor-driven cycle.

(3) Any lighted headlamp upon a parked vehicle shall be depressed or dimmed.

**61-9-215. Lamps on farm tractors, farm equipment, and implements of husbandry.** (1) A farm tractor and a self-propelled farm equipment unit or implement of husbandry not equipped with an electric lighting system must at all times mentioned in 61-9-201 be equipped with at least one lamp displaying a white light visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the front of the vehicle, at least one lamp displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear of the vehicle, and two red reflectors visible from a distance of 100 to 600 feet to the rear when illuminated by the upper beams of headlamps. The lights required in this section must be positioned so that one lamp showing to the front and one lamp or reflector showing to the rear indicates the farthest projection of the tractor, unit, or implement on the side of the road used in passing the vehicle.

(2) A combination of farm tractor and towed unit of farm equipment or implement of husbandry not equipped with an electric lighting system or an implement of husbandry being towed by a motor vehicle must at all times mentioned in 61-9-201 be equipped with the following lamps:

(a) at least one lamp mounted to indicate the extreme left projection of the combination and displaying a white light visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the front of the combination; and

(b) two lamps each displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear of the combination, or at least one lamp displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear of the combination and two red reflectors visible from a distance of 100 to 600 feet to the rear of the combination when illuminated by the upper beams of headlamps. The lamps or reflectors must be mounted to indicate the extreme left and right rear projections of the towed unit or implement on the highway.

(3) A farm tractor and a self-propelled unit of farm equipment or implement of husbandry equipped with an electric lighting system must at all times mentioned in 61-9-201 be equipped with two multiple-beam or single-beam headlamps meeting the requirements of 61-9-220 or 61-9-222 and two red lamps visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear, or one red lamp visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear and two red reflectors visible from a distance of 100 to 600 feet to the rear when illuminated by the upper beams of headlamps. The red lamps or reflectors must be mounted in the rear of the farm tractor or self-propelled implement of husbandry to indicate the extreme left and right projections of the vehicle on the highway.

(4) A combination of farm tractor and towed farm equipment or towed implement of husbandry equipped with an electric lighting system must at all times mentioned in 61-9-201 be equipped with the following lamps:

(a) The farm tractor element of the combination must be equipped with two single-beam or multiple-beam headlamps meeting the requirements of 61-9-220 or 61-9-222.

(b) The towed unit of farm equipment or implement of husbandry element of the combination must be equipped with two red lamps visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear or one red lamp visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear and two red reflectors visible from a distance of 100 to 600 feet to the rear when illuminated by the upper beams of headlamps. The red lamps or reflectors must be located to indicate the extreme left and right projections of the towed unit or implement on the highway.

(c) The combination must also be equipped with a lamp displaying a white or amber light, or a shade of color between white and amber, visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the front and a lamp displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear. The lamp or lamps must indicate to the front and rear the farthest projection of the combination on the side of the road used by other vehicles in passing the combination.

**61-9-216. Lamps on other vehicles and equipment.** A vehicle, including animal-drawn vehicles and vehicles referred to in 61-9-109(4), not specifically required by the provisions of this chapter to be equipped with lamps or other lighting devices, must at all times specified in 61-9-201 be equipped with at least one lamp displaying a white light visible from a distance of not less than 1,000 feet to the front of the vehicle, and with two lamps displaying red light visible from a distance of not less than 1,000 feet to the rear of the vehicle. The vehicle may have one lamp displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than 1,000 feet to the rear and two red reflectors visible for distances of 100 to 600 feet to the rear when illuminated by the upper beams of headlamps.

**61-9-217. Spot lamps, fog lamps, and auxiliary lamps.** (1) A motor vehicle may not be equipped with more than two spot lamps and a lighted spot lamp must be turned off upon approaching another moving vehicle from either direction.

(2) A motor vehicle may not be equipped with more than two fog lamps that provide a low, wide-angle light pattern to increase short-range visibility. Fog lamps must be mounted on the front at a height not more than 30 inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands and so aimed that when the vehicle is not loaded none of the high-intensity portion of the light to the left of the center of the vehicle at a distance of 25 feet ahead projects higher than a level of 4 inches below the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes. Lighted fog lamps meeting the requirements of this subsection may be used with lower headlamp beams as specified in 61-9-220(2). A fog lamp may not be used as a substitute for headlamps.

(3) A motor vehicle may not be equipped with more than two auxiliary driving lamps that produce a long-range, pencil-shaped light pattern and that are used to supplement the upper beams of headlamps. Auxiliary driving lamps must be mounted on the front at a height not less than 16 inches or more than 42 inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands. The provisions of 61-9-220 apply to a combination of headlamps and auxiliary driving lamps. An auxiliary driving lamp may not be used as a substitute for headlamps or lighted at any time the headlamps are required to be on in the low-beam position.

(4) An auxiliary off-road lamp mounted more than 42 inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands may not be lighted while the vehicle is operated or parked on a highway.

**61-9-218. Signal lamps and signal devices -- when required.** (1) A motor vehicle or combination of vehicles may be equipped and when required under this chapter must be equipped with signal lamps showing to the front and rear for the purpose of indicating an intention to turn either to the right or left. The lamps showing to the front must be located on the same level and as widely spaced

laterally as practicable. Except as provided in subsection (3), when in use, the lamps must display a white or amber light, or a shade of color between white and amber, visible from a distance of not less than 300 feet to the front in normal sunlight. The lamps showing to the rear must be located at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable. Except as provided in subsection (3), when in use, the lamps must display a red or amber light, or a shade of color between red and amber, visible from a distance of not less than 300 feet to the rear in normal sunlight. When actuated the lamps must indicate the intended direction of turning by flashing the lights showing to the front and rear on the side toward which the turn is made.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer must be equipped with signal lamps meeting the requirements of this section.

(3) On a motor vehicle manufactured or assembled before January 1, 1964, the signal lamps required by this section must be visible from a distance of not less than 100 feet. Signal lamps are not required on any vehicle manufactured or assembled before January 1, 1953.

(4) A stop lamp or signal lamp or device may not project a glaring light.

**61-9-219. Additional lighting equipment.** (1) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two side cowl or fender lamps which shall emit an amber or white light without glare.

(2) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than one running board courtesy lamp on each side thereof which shall emit a white or amber light without glare.

(3) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two backup lamps either separately or in combination with other lamps, but any such backup lamps shall not be lighted when the motor vehicle is in forward motion.

(4) Any vehicle may be equipped with lamps which may be used for the purpose of warning the operators of other vehicles of the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring the exercise of unusual care in approaching, overtaking, or passing, and when so equipped may display such warning in addition to any other warning signals required by this chapter. The lamps used to display such warning to the front shall be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and shall display simultaneously flashing white or amber lights, or any shade of color between white and amber. The lamps used to display such warning to the rear shall be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, and shall show simultaneously flashing amber or red lights, or any shade of color between amber and red. These warning lights shall be visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet under normal atmospheric conditions at night.

**61-9-220. Multiple-beam road-lighting equipment.** Except as provided in this part, the headlamps or the auxiliary driving lamps or combination of both on a motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, quadricycle, or motor-driven cycle must be so arranged that the driver may select between distributions of light projected to different elevations. The selection can be made automatically, subject to the following limitations:

(1) There must be an uppermost distribution of light, or composite beam, capable of revealing persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 350 feet ahead for all conditions of loading.

(2) There must be a lowermost distribution of light, or composite beam, capable of revealing persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 100 feet ahead. On a straight level road under any condition of loading the high-intensity portion of the beam may not be directed to strike the eyes of an approaching driver.

(3) A motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, quadricycle, or motor-driven cycle, manufactured after January 1, 1956, that has multiple-beam road-lighting equipment must be equipped with a beam indicator that must be lighted whenever the uppermost distribution of light from the headlamps is in use, and may not otherwise be lighted. The indicator must be readily visible without glare to the driver of the vehicle.

**61-9-227. Blinker-type or revolving red light on certain private vehicles -- use -- identification card.** (1) Firefighters, when authorized by the chiefs of their respective departments, and search and rescue and volunteer emergency medical personnel, when authorized by the county sheriff, may use a blinker-type or revolving red light or both on the front or the top of their privately owned motor vehicles. This light must be used on emergency duty only while responding to but not upon returning from a fire or other emergency.

(2) A firefighter or search and rescue or volunteer emergency medical personnel displaying the emergency red light on a privately owned motor vehicle shall also carry on the vehicle an identification card showing the name of the owner of the vehicle and the organization to which the firefighter or search and rescue or volunteer emergency medical personnel belongs, and bearing the signature of the person authorizing the emergency use of the light.

**61-9-228. Standards for lights on snow-removal equipment.** (1) The commission shall adopt standards and specifications applicable to headlamps, clearance lamps, and identification and other lamps on snow-removal equipment when operated on the highways of this state in lieu of the lamps otherwise required on motor vehicles by this chapter. Such standards and specifications may permit the use of flashing lights for purposes of identification on snow-removal equipment when in service upon the highways. The standards and specifications for lamps referred to in this section shall correlate with and so far as possible conform with those approved by the American association of state highway officials.

(2) It shall be unlawful to operate any snow-removal equipment on any highway unless the lamps thereon comply with and are lighted when and as required by the standards and specifications adopted as provided in this section.

**61-9-229. Flashing amber light on mail delivery vehicle.** (1) A vehicle engaged in delivery of United States mail may be equipped with a blinker-type or revolving amber light mounted on the top of the vehicle, and the light may be illuminated while the vehicle is engaged in delivery of mail.

(2) A person delivering the United States mail and illuminating an amber light on a privately owned motor vehicle shall carry attached to the motor vehicle an identification card showing the name of the owner of the vehicle and signed by the postmaster authorizing the use of the amber light.

### **Vehicle Equipment - Brakes**

**61-9-301. Brake equipment required.** Every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer, and any combination of such vehicles operating upon a highway within this state shall be equipped with brakes in compliance with the requirements of this part.

**61-9-302. Service brakes -- adequacy.** Every such vehicle and combination of vehicles, except special mobile equipment as defined in 61-1-104, shall be equipped with service brakes complying with the performance requirements of 61-9-312 and adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold such vehicle under all conditions of loading and on any grade incident to its operation.

**61-9-303. Parking brakes -- adequacy.** Every such vehicle and combination of vehicles, except motorcycles, quadricycles, and motor-driven cycles, shall be equipped with parking brakes adequate to hold the vehicle on any grade on which it is operated, under all conditions of loading, on a surface free from snow, ice, or loose material. The parking brakes shall be capable of being applied in conformance with the foregoing requirements by the driver's muscular effort or by spring action or by equivalent means. Their operation may be assisted by the service brakes or other source of power, provided that failure of the service brake actuation system or other power assisting mechanism will not prevent the parking brakes from being applied in conformance with the foregoing requirements. The parking brakes shall be so designed that when once applied they shall remain applied with the required effectiveness despite exhaustion of any source of energy or leakage of any kind. The same brake drums, brake shoes

and lining assemblies, brake shoe anchors and mechanical brake shoe actuation mechanism normally associated with the wheel brake assemblies may be used for both the service brakes and the parking brakes. If the means of applying the parking brakes and the service brakes are connected in any way, they shall be so constructed that failure of any one part shall not leave the vehicle without operative brakes.

**61-9-304. Brakes required on all wheels -- exceptions.** Every vehicle must be equipped with brakes acting on all wheels except:

(1) trailers, semitrailers, pole trailers of a gross weight not exceeding 3,000 pounds, provided that:

(a) the total weight on and including the wheels of the trailer or trailers may not exceed 40% of the gross weight of the towing vehicle when connected to the trailer or trailers; and

(b) the combination of vehicles consisting of the towing vehicle and its total towed load is capable of complying with the performance requirements of 61-9-312;

(2) any vehicle being towed in driveaway or towaway operations, provided the combination of vehicles is capable of complying with the performance requirements of 61-9-312;

(3) trucks and truck tractors having three or more axles need not have brakes on the front wheels, if the vehicle was manufactured before July 25, 1980. However, the trucks and truck tractors must be capable of complying with the performance requirements of 61-9-312.

(4) special mobile equipment as defined in 61-1-104;

(5) the wheel of a sidecar attached to a motorcycle or to a motor-driven cycle, or the front wheel of a motor-driven cycle need not be equipped with brakes. However, a quadricycle, motorcycle, or motor-driven cycle must be capable of complying with the performance requirements of 61-9-312.

**61-9-305. Automatic trailer brake application upon breakaway.** Every trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer

equipped with air or vacuum actuated brakes and every trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer with a gross weight in excess of 3,000 pounds, manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1966, shall be equipped with brakes acting on all wheels and of such character as to be applied automatically and promptly, and remain applied for at least 15 minutes upon breakaway from the towing vehicle.

**61-9-306. Tractor brakes protected.** Every motor vehicle manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1966, and used to tow a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer equipped with brakes shall be equipped with means for providing that in case of breakaway of the towed vehicle, the towing vehicle will be capable of being stopped by the use of its service brakes.

**61-9-307. Trailer air reservoirs safeguarded.** Air brake systems installed on trailers manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1966, shall be so designed that the supply reservoir used to provide air for the brakes shall be safeguarded against backflow of air from the reservoir through the supply line.

**61-9-308. Two means of emergency brake operation.** (1) A towing vehicle, when used to tow another vehicle equipped with air controlled brakes, in other than driveaway or towaway operations, must be equipped with two means for emergency application of the trailer brakes. One of these means must apply the brakes automatically in the event of a reduction of the towing vehicle air supply to a fixed pressure that may not be lower than 20 pounds per square inch or higher than 45 pounds per square inch. The other means must be a manually controlled device for applying and releasing the brakes, readily operable by a person seated in the driving seat, and its emergency position or method of operation must be clearly indicated. The manual means may not be arranged to prevent operation of the automatic means. The automatic and the manual means required by this section may be separate.

(2) A towing vehicle used to tow other vehicles equipped with vacuum brakes, in operations other than driveaway or towaway operations, must have, in addition to the single control device required

by 61-9-309, a second control device that can be used to operate the brakes on towed vehicles in emergencies. The second control must be independent of brake air, hydraulic, and other pressure, and independent of other controls, unless the braking system is so arranged that failure of the pressure upon which the second control depends causes the towed vehicle brakes to be applied automatically. The second control is not required to provide modulated braking.

**61-9-309. Single control to operate all brakes.** A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer, and a combination of these vehicles, except motorcycles, quadricycles, and motor-driven cycles, equipped with brakes must have one control device that can be used to operate all service brakes. This requirement does not prohibit vehicles from being equipped with an additional control device to operate brakes on the towed vehicles. This regulation does not apply to driveaway or towaway operations unless the brakes on the individual vehicles can be operated by a single control on the towing vehicle.

**61-9-310. Reservoir capacity and check valve.** (1) A bus, truck, or truck tractor with air operated brakes must be equipped with at least one reservoir sufficient to ensure that, when fully charged to the maximum pressure as regulated by the air compressor governor cutout setting, a full service brake application is made without lowering the reservoir pressure by more than 20%. Each reservoir must be provided with means for readily draining accumulated oil or water.

(2) A truck with three or more axles equipped with vacuum assist type brakes or a truck tractor and truck used for towing a vehicle equipped with vacuum brakes must be equipped with a reserve capacity or a vacuum reservoir sufficient to ensure that, with the reserve capacity or reservoir fully charged and with the engine stopped, a full service brake application is made without depleting the vacuum supply by more than 40%.

(3) A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer, when equipped with air or vacuum reservoirs or reserve capacity as required by this section, must have reservoirs or reserve capacity safeguarded by a check valve or equivalent device that, in the event of failure or leakage in its connection to the source of compressed air or vacuum, prevents the stored air or vacuum from being depleted by the leak or failure.

**61-9-311. Warning devices.** (1) A bus, truck, or truck tractor using compressed air for the operation of its own brakes or the brakes on a towed vehicle must have a warning signal, other than a pressure gauge, readily audible or visible to the driver that will operate at any time the air reservoir pressure of the vehicle is below 60 pounds per square inch. In addition, each vehicle must be equipped with a pressure gauge visible to the driver that indicates in pounds per square inch the pressure available for braking.

(2) A truck tractor, truck used for towing a vehicle equipped with vacuum operated brakes, or a truck with three or more axles using vacuum in the operation of its brakes, except those in driveaway or towaway operations, must be equipped with a warning signal, other than a gauge indicating vacuum, readily audible or visible to the driver that will operate at any time the vacuum in the vehicle's supply reservoir or reserve capacity is less than 8 inches of mercury.

(3) When a vehicle required to be equipped with a warning device is equipped with both air and vacuum power for the operation of its own brakes or the brakes on a towed vehicle, the warning devices may be combined into a single device that will serve both purposes. A gauge or gauges indicating pressure or vacuum is not an adequate means of satisfying this requirement.

**61-9-312. Performance ability of brakes.** On a dry, hard, approximately level stretch of highway free from loose material, a motor vehicle or combination of vehicles, upon application of the service brake, must be capable of stopping at a speed of 20 miles an hour within the following distances:

- (1) 25 feet for passenger motor vehicles, except buses and pioneer vehicles;
- (2) 40 feet for buses, trucks, and tractor trucks;



- (3) 45 feet for motor vehicles registered or qualified to be registered as pioneer vehicles under 61-3-411(2)(a) when equipped with two-wheel brakes or 25 feet when equipped with four-wheel brakes;
- (4) 40 feet for all combinations of vehicles; and
- (5) 30 feet for motorcycles, quadricycles, and motor-driven cycles.

**61-9-313. Maintenance of brakes.** All brakes shall be maintained in good working order and shall be so adjusted as to operate as equally as practicable with respect to the wheels on opposite sides of the vehicle.

**61-9-314. Hydraulic brake fluid.** (1) The term "hydraulic brake fluid" as used in this section shall mean the liquid medium through which force is transmitted to the brakes in the hydraulic brake system of a vehicle.

(2) Hydraulic brake fluid shall be distributed and serviced with due regard for the safety of the occupants of the vehicle and the public.

(3) The department shall, after public hearing following due notice, adopt and enforce regulations for the administration of this section and shall adopt and publish standards and specifications for hydraulic brake fluid which shall correlate with, and so far as practicable conform to, the then current standards and specifications of the society of automotive engineers applicable to such fluid.

(4) No person shall distribute, have for sale, offer for sale, or sell any hydraulic brake fluid unless it complies with the requirements of this section. No person shall service any vehicle with brake fluid unless it complies with the requirements of this section.

**61-9-321. Engine compression brake device -- use.** (1) A commercial motor vehicle, as defined in 61-1-134, equipped with an engine compression brake device must be equipped with a muffler in good working condition to prevent excessive noise.

(2) An operator of a commercial motor vehicle that has an engine compression brake device with a factory-installed muffler or an equivalent after-market muffler may not be prohibited from using the engine compression brake device.

### **Vehicle Equipment - Miscellaneous Regulations**

**61-9-401. Horns, security alarms, and warning devices.** (1) A motor vehicle when operated upon a highway must be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200 feet. A horn or other warning device may not emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle. The driver of a motor vehicle shall when reasonably necessary to ensure safe operation give audible warning with the horn but may not otherwise use the horn when upon a highway.

(2) A vehicle may not be equipped with and a person may not use upon a vehicle a siren, whistle, or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section.

(3) A vehicle may be equipped with a security alarm signal device that cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal while the vehicle is in motion.

(4) An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 500 feet and of a type approved by the department. The siren may not be used except when the vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, in which event the driver of the vehicle shall sound the siren when reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the vehicle's approach.

**61-9-402. Audible and visual signals on police, emergency vehicles, and on-scene command vehicles -- immunity.** (1) A police vehicle must be equipped with a siren capable of giving an audible signal and may be equipped with alternately flashing or rotating red or blue lights as specified in this section.

(2) An authorized emergency vehicle must be equipped:

(a) with a siren and an alternately flashing or rotating red light as specified in this section; and

(b) with signal lamps mounted as high and as widely spaced laterally as practicable that are capable of displaying to the front two alternately flashing red lights located at the same level and to the rear two alternately flashing red lights located at the same level. These lights must have sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight.

(3) A bus used for the transportation of school children must be equipped with signal lamps mounted as high and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, displaying to the front two red and two amber alternating flashing lights and to the rear two red and two amber alternating flashing lights. These lights must have sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight. The warning lights must be as prescribed by the board of public education and approved by the department.

(4) A police vehicle and an authorized emergency vehicle may, and an emergency service vehicle must, be equipped with alternately flashing or rotating amber lights as specified in this section.

(5) The use of signal equipment as described in this section imposes upon the operators of other vehicles the obligation to yield right-of-way or to stop and to proceed past the signal or light only with caution and at a speed that is no greater than is reasonable and proper under the conditions existing at the point of operation subject to the provisions of 61-8-209 and 61-8-303.

(6) An employee, agent, or representative of the state or a political subdivision of the state or of a fire department who is operating a police vehicle, an authorized emergency vehicle, or an emergency service vehicle and using signal equipment in rendering assistance at a highway crash scene or in response to any other hazard on the roadway that presents an immediate hazard or an emergency or life-threatening situation is not liable, except for willful misconduct, bad faith, or gross negligence, for injuries, costs, damages, expenses, or other liabilities resulting from a motorist operating a vehicle in violation of subsection (5).

(7) Blue, red, and amber lights required in this section must be mounted as high as and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and capable of displaying to the front two alternately flashing lights of the specified color located at the same level and to the rear two alternately flashing lights of the specified color located at the same level or one rotating light of the specified color, mounted as high as is practicable and visible from both the front and the rear. These lights must have sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight. Except as provided in 61-9-204(6), only police vehicles as defined in 61-1-118 may display blue lights, lenses, or globes.

(8) A police car and authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a flashing signal lamp that is green in color, visible from 360 degrees, and attached to the exterior roof of the vehicle for purposes of designation as the on-scene command and control vehicle in an emergency or disaster. The green light must have sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight. Only the on-scene command and control vehicle may display green lights, lenses, or globes.

(9) Only a police vehicle or an authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with the means to flash or alternate its headlamps or its backup lights.

(10) A violation of subsection (5) is considered reckless endangerment of a highway worker, as provided in 61-8-301(4), and is punishable as provided in 61-8-715.

**61-9-403. Mufflers -- prevention of noise.** (1) Every motor vehicle shall at all times be equipped with a muffler in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise and annoying smoke, and no person shall use a muffler cutout, bypass, or similar device upon a motor vehicle on a highway.

(2) The engine and power mechanism of every motor vehicle shall be so equipped and adjusted as to prevent the escape of excessive fumes or smoke.

**61-9-404. Mirrors.** A motor vehicle must be equipped with a mirror that reflects to the driver a view of the highway for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of the motor vehicle.

**61-9-405. Windshields required, exception -- unobstructed and equipped with wipers -- window tinting and sunscreening -- restrictions -- exemptions.** (1) A motor vehicle, except a motorcycle, quadricycle, motor-driven cycle, or farm tractor, must be equipped with a front windshield meeting the requirements of 61-9-408, unless the driver wears safety glasses, goggles, or face shields at all times during the operation of the motor vehicle.

(2) A person may not drive a motor vehicle with:

(a) a sign, poster, substance, or other nontransparent material upon the front windshield, side wings, or side or rear windows of the vehicle that materially obstructs, obscures, or impairs the driver's clear view of the highway or an intersecting highway; or

(b) a windshield that is shattered or in such a defective condition that it materially impairs or obstructs the driver's clear view.

(3) The windshield on a motor vehicle must be equipped with a device for clearing rain, snow, or other moisture from the windshield.

The device must be maintained in good working order.

(4) A person may not operate a motor vehicle that is required to be registered in this state upon a highway if:

(a) the windshield has sunscreening material that is not clear and transparent below the AS-1 line or if it has a sunscreening material that is red, yellow, or amber in color above the AS-1 line;

(b) the front side windows have sunscreening or other transparent material that has a luminous reflectance of more than 35% or has light transmission of less than 24%;

(c) the rear window or side windows behind the front seat have sunscreening or other transparent material that has a luminous reflectance of more than 35% or has light transmission of less than 14%, except for the rear window or side windows behind the front seat on a multipurpose vehicle, van, or bus; or

(d) the windows of a camper, motor home, pickup cover, slide-in camper, or other motor vehicle do not meet the standards for safety glazing material specified by federal law in 49 CFR 571.205.

(5) As used in 61-9-428, 61-9-429, and this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Camper" means a structure designed to be mounted in the cargo area of a truck or attached to an incomplete vehicle for the purpose of providing shelter for persons.

(b) "Glass-plastic glazing material" means a laminate of one or more layers of glass and one or more layers of plastic in which a plastic surface of the glazing faces inward when the glazing is installed in a vehicle.

(c) "Light transmission" means the ratio of the amount of total light, expressed in percentages, that is allowed to pass through the sunscreening or transparent material to the amount of total light falling on the motor vehicle window.

(d) "Luminous reflectance" means the ratio of the amount of total light, expressed in percentages, that is reflected outward by the sunscreening or transparent material to the amount of total light falling on the motor vehicle window.

(e) "Motor home" means a multipurpose passenger vehicle that provides living accommodations.

(f) "Multipurpose vehicle" means a motor vehicle designed to carry 10 or fewer passengers that is constructed on a truck chassis or with special features for occasional off-road use.

(g) "Pickup cover" means a camper having a roof and sides but without a floor designed to be mounted on and removable from the cargo area of a pickup truck by the user.

(h) "Slide-in camper" means a camper having a roof, floor, and sides designed to be mounted on and removable from the cargo area of a truck by the user.

(i) "Sunscreening material" means a film, material, tint, or device applied to motor vehicle windows for the purpose of reducing the effects of the sun.

(6) Except as provided in subsection (7), subsection (4) applies to all vehicles that are equipped with tinted windows, including windows with less than 100% light transmission to which additional sunscreening material has been applied.

(7) Subsection (4) does not apply to a multipurpose vehicle that is equipped with tinted windows that were installed by the manufacturer of the vehicle or to a hearse, ambulance, government vehicle, or any other vehicle to which a currently valid certificate of waiver is affixed as specified under 61-9-428. A certificate of waiver must be issued by the department for a vehicle that was registered in this state on October 1, 1991, and was equipped with a suncreening device or other material prohibited under subsection (4) on October 1, 1991.

**61-9-406. Restrictions as to tire equipment -- particular tires, chains, or traction equipment.** (1) A solid rubber tire on a vehicle must have rubber on its entire traction surface at least 1 inch thick above the edge of the flange of the entire periphery.

(2) A person may not operate or move on a highway a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer having a metal tire in contact with the roadway.

(3) A tire on a vehicle moved on a highway may not have on its periphery a block, stud, flange, cleat, or spike, or other protuberance of a material other than rubber that projects beyond the tread of the traction surface of the tire, except that it is permissible to use farm machinery with tires having protuberances that will not injure the highway. It is also permissible to use tire chains of reasonable proportions or pneumatic tires, the traction surfaces of which have been embedded with material, such as wood, wire, plastic or metal, that may not protrude more than one-sixteenth of an inch beyond the tire tread or that are clearly marked by the manufacturer on the sidewall "all season m&s" (or "all season mud and snow"), upon a vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice, or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid. The use of pneumatic tires embedded as provided in this section is permitted only between October 1 and May 31 of each year, except that one of those tires may be used for a spare in case of tire failure. School buses equipped with such embedded pneumatic tires may operate from August 15 through the following June 15.

(4) The department of transportation and local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may in their discretion issue special permits authorizing the operation upon a highway of farm tractors or other farm machinery or of traction engines or tractors having movable tracks with transverse corrugations upon the periphery of the movable tracks, the operation of which upon the highway would otherwise be prohibited under this section.

(5) If the department of transportation determines at any time that dangerous or unsafe conditions on a highway require particular tires, tire chains, or traction equipment for vehicles in addition to or beyond the ordinary pneumatic rubber tires, the department may establish the following recommendations or requirements with respect to the use of the equipment for all vehicles using the highway:

- (a) chains or other approved traction devices recommended for driver wheels;
- (b) chains or other approved traction devices required for driver wheels; or
- (c) chains required for driver wheels.

(6) Equipment required by subsection (5)(b) or (5)(c) must conform to rules established by the department of justice.

(7) The department of transportation shall place and maintain signs and other traffic-control devices on a highway designated under subsection (5) that indicate the tire, tire chain, or traction equipment recommendation or requirement determined for vehicles. The signs or traffic-control devices may not prohibit the use of pneumatic tires embedded as provided in subsection (3) between October 1 and May 31 of each year, but when the department of transportation determines that chains are required and that no other traction equipment will suffice, the requirement is applicable to tires on driver wheels of one axle of a vehicle, including embedded tires. The signs or traffic-control devices may differentiate in recommendations or requirements for four-wheel-drive vehicles in gear.

**61-9-407. Fenders, splash aprons, or flaps required on certain vehicles -- dimension and location.** (1) A person may not move, or permit to be moved, a vehicle, except a motorcycle, quadricycle, motor-driven cycle, or farm tractor, as defined in this title, upon the public highways without having first equipped the rearmost wheels or set of wheels of the vehicle with fenders, splash aprons, or flaps. The fenders, splash aprons, or flaps must be designed, constructed, and attached to the vehicle in a manner that arrests and deflects dirt, mud, water, rocks, and other substances that may be picked up by the rear wheels of the vehicle and thrown into the air, as follows:

(a) If the vehicle is equipped with fenders, the fenders must extend in full width from a point above and forward of the center of the tire or tires over and to the rear of the tires.

(b) If the vehicle is equipped with splash aprons or flaps, the splash aprons or flaps must extend downward in full width from a point not lower than halfway between the center of the tire or tires and the top of the tire or tires and to the rear of the tires.

(c) If the vehicle is in excess of 8,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or rating, the fenders, splash aprons, or flaps must extend downward to a point that is not more than 10 inches above the surface of the highway when the vehicle is empty.

(d) If the vehicle is 8,000 pounds or less gross vehicle weight or rating, the fenders, splash aprons, or flaps must extend downward to a point that is not more than 20 inches above the surface of the highway when the vehicle is empty.

(2) Fenders, splash aprons, or flaps, as used in subsection (1), must be constructed as follows:

(a) when measured on the cross-sections of the tread of the wheel or on the combined cross-sections of the treads of multiple wheels, the fender, splash apron, or flap extends at least to each side of the width of the tire or of the combined width of the multiple tires; and

(b) the fender, splash apron, or flap is capable at all times of arresting and deflecting dirt, mud, water, or other substance that may be picked up and carried by the wheel or wheels.

(3) This section does not apply to street rod vehicles; motor vehicles not originally equipped with fenders, splash aprons, or flaps; or motor vehicles for which fenders, splash aprons, or flaps were not required by federal law or regulation at the time of manufacture.

(4) For purposes of 61-9-430 and this section, "street rod" means a vehicle manufactured before 1949 that has been modified in body style or design.

**61-9-408. Safety glazing material in motor vehicles.** (1) A person may not sell a new motor vehicle and a new motor vehicle may not be registered unless the vehicle is equipped with safety glazing material wherever glazing material is used in doors, windows, and windshields. These provisions apply to all passenger-type motor vehicles, including passenger buses and school buses. With respect to trucks, including truck tractors, the requirements as to safety glazing material apply to all glazing material used in doors, windows, and windshields in the driver's compartments of the vehicles.

(2) The term "safety glazing materials" means glazing materials constructed, treated, or combined with other materials to reduce substantially in comparison with ordinary sheet glass or plate glass the likelihood of injury to persons by objects from exterior sources or by these safety glazing materials when they may be cracked or broken.

**61-9-409. Seatbelts required in vehicles manufactured after 1964.** (1) An automobile that was manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1965, and on or before January 1, 1968, must be equipped with safety belts installed for use in the left front and right front seats.

(2) A motor vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968, must be equipped at each designated seating position with a safety belt system required for that seating position by the standards of the United States department of transportation at the time that the vehicle was manufactured.

(3) The safety belts required by this section must remain installed and in good working condition.

**61-9-411. Certain vehicles to carry flares or other warning devices.** (1) No person shall operate any motor truck of 1-ton capacity or greater, passenger bus, or truck tractor upon any highway outside the corporate limits of municipalities at any time unless there shall be carried in such vehicle, except as provided in subsection (2), the following equipment:

(a) at least three flares or three red electric lanterns or three portable red emergency reflectors each of which shall be capable of being seen and distinguished at a distance of not less than 600 feet under normal atmospheric conditions at nighttime. No portable reflector unit shall be used for the purpose of compliance with the requirements of this section unless it is so designed and constructed as to display a minimum of 24 square inches of reflective surface, or two reflecting elements; one above the other, either of which shall be capable of reflecting red light clearly visible from all distances within 600 feet to 100 feet under normal atmospheric conditions at night when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps;

(b) at least three red-burning fusees unless red electric lanterns or red portable emergency reflectors are carried;

(c) at least two red cloth flags, no less than 12 inches square, with standards to support such flags.

(2) No person shall operate at the time and under the conditions stated in subsection (1) any motor vehicle used for the transportation of explosives, any cargo tank truck used for the transportation of flammable liquids or compressed gases, or any motor vehicle using compressed gas as a fuel unless there shall be carried in such vehicle three red electric lanterns or three portable red emergency reflectors meeting the requirements of subsection (1), and there shall not be carried in any said vehicle any flares, fusees, or signal produced by flame.

(3) As an alternative to the equipment required in subsections (1) and (2), three emergency reflective triangles conforming with U.S. department of transportation motor vehicle safety standard 125 may be carried.

**61-9-412. Display of warning devices when vehicle disabled.** (1) Whenever any motor truck, passenger bus, truck, tractor, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is disabled upon the traveled portion of any highway or the shoulder thereof outside of any municipality at any time when lighted lamps are required on vehicles the driver of such vehicle shall display the following warning devices upon the highway during the time the vehicle is so disabled on the highway except as provided in subsection (2):

(a) A lighted fusee, a lighted red electric lantern, or a portable red emergency reflector shall be immediately placed at the traffic side of the vehicle in the direction of the nearest approaching traffic.

(b) As soon thereafter as possible but in any event within the burning period of the fusee (15 minutes), the driver shall place three liquid burning flares (pot torches) or three lighted red electric lanterns or three portable red emergency reflectors on the traveled portion of the highway in the following order:

(i) one approximately 100 feet from the disabled vehicle in the center of the lane occupied by such vehicle and toward traffic approaching in that lane;

(ii) one approximately 100 feet in the opposite direction from the disabled vehicle and in the center of the traffic lane occupied by such vehicle;

(iii) one at the traffic side of the disabled vehicle not less than 10 feet rearward or forward thereof in the direction of the nearest approaching traffic. If a lighted red electric lantern or a red portable emergency reflector has been placed at the traffic side of the vehicle in accordance with subsection (1)(b)(i) of this section, it may be used for this purpose.

(2) Whenever any vehicle referred to in this section is disabled within 500 feet of a curve, hillcrest, or other obstruction to view, the warning signal in that direction shall be so placed as to afford ample warning to other users of the highway but in no case less than 500 feet from the disabled vehicle.

(3) Whenever any vehicle of a type referred to in this section is disabled upon any roadway of a divided highway during the time that lights are required, the appropriate warning devices prescribed in subsections (1) and (5) shall be placed as follows:

(a) one at a distance of approximately 200 feet from the vehicle, in the center of the lane occupied by the stopped vehicle and in the direction of traffic approaching in that lane;

(b) one at a distance of approximately 100 feet from the vehicle, in the center of the lane occupied by the vehicle and in the direction of traffic approaching in that lane;

(c) one at the traffic side of the vehicle and approximately 10 feet from the vehicle in the direction of the nearest approaching traffic.

(4) Whenever any vehicle of a type referred to in this section is disabled upon the traveled portion of a highway or the shoulder thereof outside of any municipality at any time when the display of fusees, flares, red electric lanterns, or portable red emergency reflectors is not required, the driver of the vehicle shall display two red flags upon the roadway in the lane of traffic occupied by the disabled vehicle, or at a distance of approximately 100 feet in advance of the vehicle, and one at a distance of approximately 100 feet to the rear of the vehicle.

(5) Whenever any motor vehicle used in the transportation of explosives or any cargo tank truck used for the transportation of any flammable liquid or compressed flammable gas, or any motor vehicle using compressed gas as a fuel, is disabled upon any highway of this state at any time or place mentioned in subsection (1) of this section, the driver of such vehicle shall immediately display the following warning devices:

(a) one red electric lantern or portable red emergency reflector placed on the roadway at the traffic side of the vehicle and two red electric lanterns or portable red reflectors, one placed approximately 100 feet to the front and one placed approximately 100 feet to the rear of the disabled vehicle in the center of the traffic lane occupied by such vehicle;

(b) flares, fusees, or signals produced by flame shall not be used as warning devices for disabled vehicles of the type mentioned in this subsection (5).

(6) The flares, fusees, red electric lanterns, portable red emergency reflectors and flags to be displayed as required in this section shall conform with the requirements of 61-9-411 applicable thereto.

**61-9-413. Vehicles transporting explosives.** (1) Any person operating any vehicle transporting any explosive as a cargo or part of a cargo upon a highway shall at all times comply with the provisions of this section.

(2) Said vehicle shall be marked or placarded on each side and the rear with the word "EXPLOSIVES" in letters not less than 8 inches high, or there shall be displayed on the rear of such vehicle a red flag not less than 24 inches square marked with the word "DANGER" in white letters 6 inches high.

(3) Every said vehicle shall be equipped with not less than two fire extinguishers, filled and ready for immediate use, and placed at a convenient point on the vehicle so used.

(4) The department is hereby authorized and directed to promulgate such additional regulations governing the transportation of explosives and other dangerous articles by vehicles upon the highway as it shall deem advisable for the protection of the public.

**61-9-414. Logging trucks.** (1) A truck or truck trailer combination, except pole trailers, actively engaged in transporting logs must be equipped with chains, cables, steel straps, or fiber webbing with working load limits that meet or exceed the manufacturer's marked value. The number of tie-down assemblies must be determined by the working load limits and the total weight of the load. The working load limits must equal or exceed 1 1/2 times the total weight of the load.

(2) A pole trailer actively engaged in transporting logs upon the highways of the state must be equipped as follows:

(a) At least three wrappers are required as standard equipment. The wrappers must:

(i) be made of steel chain, steel cable, or a combination of steel chain and steel cable;

(ii) have a minimum working load limit of at least 3,000 pounds; and

(iii) be long enough to encompass any load when secured by a binder.

(b) (i) Wrappers used to secure loads of logs together must be fastened by means of a binder.

(ii) The complete wrapper and binder assembly must have a working load limit of at least 3,000 pounds.

(iii) The handle, or leverage portion of the binder, when in use in tightening and holding the wrapper, must be securely fastened to the wrapper or to the binder so that it cannot be accidentally loosened.

(c) At least two wrappers must be in use on all loads. The wrappers must be placed as close as reasonably possible to the front and rear bunks.

(d) If short logs are loaded on top of longer logs, sufficient wrappers must be used to secure both ends of the short logs to the main body of the load. A log may not extend laterally beyond the stakes that form the outer boundary of the load at the top of the stakes. Logs or poles loaded above the tops of the stakes must be loaded in a pyramidal fashion.

(3) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "binder" means a device attached to a wrapper that provides tension on and secures a wrapper; and

(b) "wrapper" means an indirect tie-down device, the tension of which is intended to secure a stack of logs.

**61-9-415. Slow-moving vehicles.** (1) It is unlawful for a person to operate on a state highway, a farm, rural, or county road, or a city street of this state a slow-moving vehicle or equipment, an animal-drawn vehicle, or any other machinery, including all road construction or maintenance machinery, except when engaged in actual construction or maintenance work either guarded by a flag person or clearly visible warning signs, that normally travels or is normally used at a speed of less than 25 miles an hour, unless there is displayed on the rear of the vehicle an emblem as provided in subsection (2). The requirement of the emblem is in addition to any lighting devices required by law.

(2) The emblem required by subsection (1) must be of substantial construction and must be a based-down equilateral triangle of fluorescent yellow-orange film or equivalent quality paint with a base of 14 inches and a height of 12 inches. The triangle must be bordered with reflective red strips having a minimum width of 1 3/4 inches, with the vertices of the overall triangle truncated so that the remaining height is a minimum of 14 inches. The emblem must be mounted on the rear of the vehicle near the horizontal geometric center of the vehicle at a height of 3 to 5 feet above the roadway and must be maintained in a clean, reflective condition.

(3) In addition to the requirements in subsection (2), on a highway that has only two lanes for traffic moving in opposite directions, when an overtaking vehicle being operated in conformity with 61-8-303 does not have a clear lane for passing as required by 61-8-325, the driver of a slower-moving, overtaken vehicle shall, at the first opportunity and when a safe turnout exists, move the overtaken vehicle off the main-traveled portion of the highway until the overtaking vehicle is safely clear of the overtaken vehicle.

(4) On an interstate highway or on any other four-lane highway, a slow-moving vehicle, subject to the requirements of this section, must be driven in the right lane as far to the right as possible, including the shoulder of the highway.

**61-9-416. Commercial tow truck definition -- requirements.** (1) "Commercial tow truck" means a motor vehicle operating for compensation that is equipped with specialized equipment designed and intended for towing or the recovery of wrecked, disabled, or abandoned vehicles or other objects creating a hazard on the public roadways. A commercial tow truck must be equipped with:

(a) not less than two red flares, two red lanterns, or two warning lights or reflectors. The reflectors must be of a type approved by the department.

(b) at least two highway warning signs as provided in 61-9-431.

(c) a dry chemical fire extinguisher of at least 5 pound capacity or an equivalent alternative type of fire extinguisher, approved by the department;



(d) a lamp emitting a flashing red or amber light meeting the requirements of 61-9-402(7), or both a red and amber light, mounted on top of the cab of the tow truck or on the top of the crane or hoist if the light can be seen from the front of the tow truck. The light from the lamp must be visible for a distance of 1,000 feet under normal atmospheric conditions and must be mounted so that it can be securely fastened with the lens of the lamp facing the rear of the tow truck upon which it is mounted. When standing at the location from which the disabled vehicle is to be towed, the operator of the tow truck may unfasten the red light and place it in a position considered advisable to warn approaching drivers. When the disabled vehicle is ready for towing, the red light must be turned to the rear of the tow truck upon which it is mounted and securely locked in this position. Additional red or amber lights of an approved type may be displayed at either side or both sides of the tow truck during the period of preparation at the location from which the disabled vehicle is to be towed.

(e) one or more brooms, and the operator of the tow truck engaged to remove a disabled vehicle from the scene of an accident shall remove all glass and debris deposited upon the roadway by the disabled vehicle that is to be towed;

(f) a shovel, and whenever practical, the tow truck operator engaged to remove a disabled vehicle shall spread dirt upon that portion of the roadway where oil or grease has been deposited by the disabled vehicle; and

(g) a portable electrical extension cord or other device for use in displaying stop, turn, and taillamps on the rear of the disabled vehicle. The length of the extension cord may not be less than the length of the combined vehicles. When a disabled vehicle is towed, the tow truck operator shall provide for the rear light that is capable of displaying a stop signal, turn signal, and taillamps by means of the extension cord or other device referred to in this subsection.

(2) The operator of a commercial tow truck used for the purpose of rendering assistance to other vehicles shall, when the rendering of assistance necessitates the obstruction of a portion of the roadway, place a highway warning sign as required in 61-9-431.

(3) The owner or operator of a commercial tow truck who complies with the requirements of 61-8-906 and 61-8-907 and this section may stop or park the tow truck upon a highway for the purpose of rendering assistance to a disabled vehicle, notwithstanding other provisions of this code.

(5) A commercial tow truck company that is in compliance with 61-9-431 and that is operating an emergency service vehicle and using signal equipment in rendering assistance at a highway crash scene or in response to any other hazard on the roadway that presents an immediate hazard or an emergency or life-threatening situation is not liable, except for willful misconduct, bad faith, or gross negligence, for injuries, costs, damages, expenses, or other liabilities resulting from a motorist operating a vehicle in violation of 61-9-402(5).

### **Vehicle Equipment - Enforcement Penalties**

**61-9-501. Inspections by officers of the department.** (1) The department or its agents may at any time upon reasonable cause to believe that a vehicle is unsafe or not equipped as required by law or that its equipment is not in proper adjustment or repair require the driver of such vehicle to stop and submit such vehicle to an inspection and such test with reference thereto as may be appropriate.

(2) In the event such vehicle and its equipment are found to be in safe condition and in full compliance with the law, the officer making such inspection may issue to the driver an official certificate of inspection and approval of such vehicle specifying those parts or equipment so inspected and approved.

(3) In the event such vehicle is found to be in unsafe condition or any required part or equipment is not present or is not in proper repair and adjustment the officer shall give a written notice to the driver and shall send a copy to the department. Said notice shall specify the deficiencies and require that such vehicle be placed in safe condition and its equipment in proper repair and adjustment within 5 days.

**61-9-502. Semiannual inspection of school buses.** (1) The department shall perform the semiannual inspection of school buses, one of which shall be at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the school term, and reinspect the buses, if necessary, before the beginning of the school term.

(2) The department's inspection shall determine if the school buses meet the minimum standards for school buses as adopted by the board of public education.

**61-9-503. Owners and drivers to comply with inspection laws.** (1) No person driving a vehicle may refuse to submit the vehicle to an inspection and test when required to do so by the department or an authorized officer or employee of the department.

(2) Every owner or driver, upon receiving a notice as provided in 61-9-501, shall comply therewith and shall within 5 days have the deficiencies corrected and forward notification of the correction to the department. In lieu of compliance with this subsection, the vehicle may not be operated, except as provided in subsection (3).

(3) No person may operate any vehicle after receiving a notice with reference thereto as above provided except as may be necessary to return the vehicle to the residence or place of business of the owner or driver, if within a distance of 20 miles, or to a garage until the vehicle and its equipment have been placed in proper repair and adjustment and otherwise made to conform to the requirements of this chapter.

**61-9-504. Rules.** The department is hereby empowered to make additional rules governing the use of safety equipment on motor vehicles, vehicles, and/or combination of vehicles, that is, trailer hitches, safety chains, mounts, tow bars, and other similar equipment as it shall deem advisable for the protection of the public.

**61-9-511. Violation of chapter -- penalty.** (1) It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of this chapter unless the violation is declared to be a felony.

(2) A person convicted of a misdemeanor for a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter for which another penalty is not provided shall for a first conviction be punished by a fine of not less than \$10 or more than \$100. For a second conviction within 1 year, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$25 or more than \$200. Upon a third or subsequent conviction within 1 year after the first conviction, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$500.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), failure to pay a fine imposed under this chapter is a civil contempt of the court. On failure of payment of a fine, the court may:

(a) order enforcement of the fine by execution in the manner provided in 25-13-204 and under the provisions of Title 25, chapter 13; or

(b) if the court finds that the person is unable to pay, order the person to perform community service.

(4) If property is not found in an amount necessary to satisfy the unpaid portion of the fine and if the court makes a written finding that community service is inappropriate, the person shall be imprisoned in the county jail in the county in which the offense has been committed. The imprisonment shall be the number of days that the fine is divisible by the dollar amount of the incarceration credit contained in 46-18-403.

(5) Upon conviction, the court costs or any part of the court costs may be assessed against the defendant in the discretion of the court.

**61-9-512. Violation of rules -- penalty.** (1) Any violation of any rules adopted by the department is a misdemeanor.

(2) A person convicted of a violation of any standard adopted pursuant to 44-1-1005 shall be fined not less than \$25 or more than \$500 for the first offense and not less than \$25 or more than \$1,000 for each subsequent offense.

(3) The penalties provided in subsection (2) apply to any motor carrier that is a corporation subject to the standards adopted pursuant to 44-1-1005. The penalties may be imposed against:

- (a) a director or officer of the corporation;
- (b) any receiver, trustee, lessee, agent, or person acting for or employed by the corporation; or
- (c) any broker of property or officer, agent, or employee thereof.

**61-9-513. Violation of general lighting requirement and slow-moving vehicle provisions -- penalty.** Any person violating the provisions of 61-9-216 or 61-9-415 shall be subject to penalty as provided in 61-9-511.

**61-9-514. Unauthorized use of firefighter's private vehicle -- penalty.** Any person violating the provisions of 61-9-227 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

**61-9-515. Violations of provisions relating to fenders, splash aprons, or flaps -- penalty.** Any person violating any of the provisions of 61-9-407 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$10 or more than \$25.

**61-9-516. Penalty for seatbelt violations.** Any person who violates the provisions of 61-9-409 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not to exceed \$100.

**61-9-517. Violation of towing requirements -- penalty.** Any person violating any of the provisions of 61-9-416 shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a penalty not to exceed \$100.

**61-9-518. Violation of motorcycle or quadricycle requirements -- penalty.** (1) A person convicted of the violation of 61-9-417 shall be fined \$5.

(2) A person convicted of the violation of 61-9-418 shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$10 or more than \$100 for the first conviction. For a second conviction within 1 year, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$25 or more than \$200. Upon a third or subsequent conviction within 1 year after the first conviction, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$500.

**61-9-519. Violation of tire restrictions -- penalty.** A person violating 61-9-406 is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to penalty as provided in 61-9-511.

**61-9-520. Penalty.** (1) A person violating the provisions of 61-9-406(5) through (7) is guilty of the nonmoving offense of failure to use chains or approved traction devices when required and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of \$25, and no jail sentence may be imposed. Bond for this offense shall be \$25.

(2) A violation of 61-9-406(5) through (7) is not a misdemeanor subject to 45-2-101, 61-9-511, 61-9-512, or 61-9-519.

**61-9-521. Violation of engine compression brake device provisions -- penalty.** A person who violates the provisions of 61-9-321 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not to exceed \$500

## Vehicle Size and Weight

**61-10-101. Standards of maximum dimensions, weights, etc.** The standards provided for in 61-10-102 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110 govern the maximum dimensions, weights, and other characteristics of motor vehicles operating over the highways in the state to the exclusion of other standards or other requirements respecting the subject matter.

**61-10-102. Width.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a vehicle, including a bus, unloaded or with load, may not have a total outside width in excess of 102 inches. This width for buses is allowed only on paved highways 20 feet or more in width.

(2) (a) Subsection (1) does not apply to an implement of husbandry or a vehicle used for hauling hay that is moved or propelled upon the highway during daylight hours for a distance of not more than 100 miles if the movement is incidental to the farming operations of the owner of the implement of husbandry or the vehicle used for hauling hay. If the implement or vehicle is more than 12 1/2 feet wide, it must be preceded by flag vehicle escorts to warn other highway users. This restriction does not apply to dual-wheel tractors under 15 feet overall width that are used in farming operations or to movement on a county road within 100 miles of the farming operation of the owner of an implement of husbandry or a vehicle used for hauling hay. Lights that meet the requirements of 61-9-219(4) must be displayed on the rear of the implement of husbandry or vehicle used for hauling hay. However, if the highway passes through a hazardous area, the implements or vehicles must be preceded and followed by flag vehicle escorts unless the movement of the implements or vehicles is restricted to a county road within 100 miles of the farming operation of the owner.

(b) An implement of husbandry or a vehicle used for hauling hay that exceeds 16 1/2 feet in width and that is traveling on an interstate or a four-lane highway must be followed by a flag vehicle escort.

(c) A commercial vehicle that is hauling hay but does not qualify under subsection (2)(a) may be granted a permit subject to the provisions of 61-10-121 through 61-10-127 and the following requirements:

(i) travel during daylight hours only for an oversize shipment of large round bales of hay, whether the vehicle is loaded or with an empty hay rack, up to 144 inches; when empty, a square red or orange flag measuring 12 inches on each side must be attached to each corner of the hay rack; and

(ii) travel day or night for any other shipment of baled hay, whether the vehicle is loaded or with an empty hay rack, up to 114 inches.

(d) Subsection (1) does not apply to a commercial hay grinder moved or propelled upon the highway during daylight hours for a distance of not more than 100 miles if the movement is incidental to operations of the commercial hay grinder. A commercial hay grinder exceeding 102 inches in width must have a permit issued under 61-10-124. If the commercial hay grinder is more than 12 1/2 feet wide, it must be preceded by flag vehicle escorts to warn other highway users. Lights that meet the requirements of 61-9-219(4) must be displayed on the rear of the commercial hay grinder. Movement of a commercial hay grinder that does not exceed 138 inches in width may occur on any day of the week, including holidays, and is restricted to movement during daylight hours. Movement of a commercial hay grinder may not exceed the posted speed limit, including the speed limit on an interstate highway.

(3) A safety device that the department determines by rule adopted pursuant to 61-9-504 to be necessary for safe and efficient operation of motor vehicles is not included in the calculation of width provided in subsection (1).

(4) For the purposes of this section, "county road" has the same meaning as the term is defined in 60-1-103.

**61-10-103. Height.** A vehicle, unladen or with load, may not exceed a height of 14 feet.

**61-10-104. Length -- definitions.** (1) A single truck, bus, or self-propelled vehicle, unladen or with load, may not have an overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of 55 feet.

(2) (a) When used in a truck tractor-semitrailer combination, the semitrailer may not exceed 53 feet in length, excluding those portions not designed to carry a load, except as provided by 61-10-124. When used in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer or a truck tractor-semitrailer-semitrailer combination, the semitrailer and trailer or the two semitrailers may not exceed 28 1/2 feet each in length or 61 feet in combined trailer length, excluding those portions not designed to carry a load, except as provided by 61-10-124. Truck tractor-semitrailer, truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer, and truck tractor-semitrailer-semitrailer combinations are not subject to a combination length limit.

(b) A stinger-steered automobile or boat transporter may not exceed 75 feet in length plus a maximum 3 feet of front overhang and 4 feet of rear overhang, except as provided by 61-10-124. "Stinger-steered automobile or boat transporter" means a truck tractor-semitrailer combination that has a fifth wheel on a drop frame located behind and below the rear axle of the truck tractor and that is designed and used for the transportation of vehicles or assembled boats or boat hulls.

(c) All other combinations of vehicles may not have a combination length in excess of 75 feet, except as provided by 61-10-124. If the combination consists of more than two units, the rear units of the combination must be equipped with breakaway brakes.

(3) A motor vehicle may not tow more than one motor vehicle, and a motor vehicle may not draw more than three motor vehicles attached to it by the triple saddle-mount method (that is, by mounting the front wheels of one vehicle on the bed of another, leaving only the rear wheels of the vehicle in contact with the roadway), and this combination may not have a combination length in excess of 75 feet.

(4) A passenger vehicle or truck of less than 2,000 pounds "manufacturers' rated capacity" may not tow more than one trailer or semitrailer, and this combination may not have a length in excess of 65 feet.

(5) (a) The length of a vehicle combination consisting of a truck or truck-tractor and one pole trailer or semitrailer hauling raw logs may not exceed 75 feet in overall length. As used in this subsection (5)(a), the term "length" means the total length of the vehicle combination beginning at the front of the front bumper of the truck or truck-tractor and extending to the most distant end of the logs being hauled. A term permit for an overlength vehicle combination, as provided in 61-10-124(2), does not apply to the vehicle combination described in this subsection (5)(a). A vehicle combination exceeding 75 feet must have a trip permit.

(b) The maximum overhang of any log may not exceed 15 feet, except by special, single-trip permit. Overhang is measured from the center of the rear-most axle to the most distant end of the logs being hauled.

(c) The provisions in subsections (5)(a) and (5)(b) do not apply to a vehicle combination hauling utility poles.

(6) As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Combination length" means the total length of a combination of vehicles, such as a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination, measured from the front bumper of the motor vehicle to the back bumper or rear extremity of the last trailer, including the connection tongues.

(b) "Combined trailer length" means the total length of a combination of trailers measured from the front of the first trailer to the back of the last trailer, including the connection tongues and loads.

(c) "Length", except as provided in subsection (5)(a), means the total longitudinal dimension of a single vehicle, a trailer, or a semitrailer. The length of a trailer or semitrailer is measured from the front of the cargo-carrying unit to its rear, exclusive of safety or energy efficiency devices, air-conditioning units, air compressors, flexible fender extensions, splash and spray suppressant devices, bolsters, mechanical fastening devices, and hydraulic lift gates.

(d) "Rocky Mountain double" means a combination of vehicles that includes a truck tractor pulling a long semitrailer and a shorter trailer.

**61-10-106. Measuring distance between axles.** The distance between axles shall be measured to the nearest foot. When a fractional measurement is exactly one-half foot, the next larger whole number shall be used.

**61-10-107. Maximum gross weight.** (1) An axle may not carry a load in excess of 20,000 pounds, and no two consecutive axles more than 40 inches or less than 96 inches apart may carry a load in excess of 34,000 pounds. An axle load is the total load transmitted to the road by all wheels whose centers are included between two parallel transverse vertical planes 40 inches apart, extending across the full width of the vehicle. For purposes of this section, axles 40 inches or less apart are considered to be a single axle. The maximum gross weight allowed on a vehicle, group of axles, or combination of vehicles must be determined by the formula:

$$W = 500((LN/(N - 1)) \\ + 12N \\ + 36)$$

in which W equals gross weight, L equals wheel base in feet, and N equals number of axles, except that two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each if the overall distance between the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more. The maximum gross weight allowed on a vehicle may not exceed the weight limits adopted by the department. The department shall adopt rules for weight limits based upon the most recent version of 23 CFR, part 658, appendix c, for vehicles operating in Montana.

(2) (a) Notwithstanding a vehicle's conformance with the requirements of subsection (1), except for the steering axle, all axles weighing over 11,000 pounds must have at least four tires or have wide-base tires. The maximum load on an axle, other than a steering axle, equipped with wide-base tires is limited to 500 pounds for each inch of tire width.

(b) The provisions of subsection (2)(a) do not apply to passenger buses.

(c) For the purposes of this section, wide-base tires are tires that are 14 or more inches in nominal width. The maximum tire weight limit is computed for wide-base tires based on the number of inches shown on the tire marking, or if the tire marking is shown by metric size, the tire weight limit is computed by conversion of the metric size.

(3) This section does not apply to highways that are a part of the national system of interstate and defense highways (as referred to in 23 U.S.C. 127) when application of this section would prevent this state from receiving federal funds for highway purposes.

**61-10-108. Reduction under special circumstances.** The maximum axle and axle group loads stated in 61-10-107 are subject to reasonable reduction in the discretion of the department of transportation during periods when road subgrades have been weakened by water saturation or other causes.

**61-10-109. Operation without special permits prohibited.** The operation of vehicles or combinations of vehicles having dimensions or weights in excess of the maximum limits specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-108 is permitted only if authorized by special permit issued under 61-10-121 through 61-10-125 by the department of transportation or its agents or the highway patrol.

**61-10-110. Federal law.** Sections 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-109 do not authorize, without a permit issued as provided by law, the operation of a combination of vehicles having a gross weight, axle load, or size in excess of that authorized in those sections or the operation on the national system of interstate and defense highways of a combination of vehicles having a

gross weight or size in excess of the maximum weight and size permitted by law in this state before July 1, 1956, or permitted by federal law or regulation. If federal law allows establishment of weight and size limits in excess of the allowable limits permitted in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-109, without penalty or denial of federal funds for highway purposes, the department of transportation may, by permit designating highway routing, authorize the movement on highways under its jurisdiction of vehicles or combinations of vehicles of a weight or size in excess of the limits provided for in those sections, but within the limits necessary to qualify for federal-aid highway funds.

**61-10-113. Issuance of permits for overweight and oversize loads -- interstate agreements.**

The department of transportation may enter into agreements with other states to provide for the issuance of permits for overweight and oversize loads, as authorized by the laws and rules of each state.

**61-10-121. Permits for excess size and weight -- agents.** (1) (a) Upon application and with good cause shown, the department of transportation, or its agent under subsection (3), and local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may issue telephonically or in writing a special permit authorizing the applicant to operate or move a vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing of a size or weight exceeding the maximum specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110 upon a highway under the jurisdiction of and for the maintenance of which the body granting the permit is responsible. However, only the department may issue permits for movement of a vehicle or combination of vehicles carrying built-up or reducible loads in excess of 9 feet in width or exceeding the length, height, or weight specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110. This permit must be issued in the public interest. A carrier receiving this permit must have public liability and property damage insurance for the protection of the traveling public as a whole. A permit may not be issued for a period greater than the period for which the GVW license is valid, including grace periods, as provided in this title. Owners of vehicles licensed in other jurisdictions may, at the discretion of the department, purchase permits to expire with their registration. A license required by the state governs the issuance of a special permit.

(b) The department may issue to dealers in implements of husbandry and self-propelled machinery oversize permits. The permits may be transferred from unit to unit by the dealer, for the fee set forth in 61-10-124. These oversize permits may not restrict dealers in implements of husbandry and self-propelled machinery from traveling on a Saturday or Sunday and expire on December 31 of each year, with no grace period. For the purposes of this section, a dealer in implements of husbandry or self-propelled machinery must be a resident of the state. A post-office box number is not a permanent address under this section.

(2) The applicant for a special permit shall specifically describe the powered vehicle or towing vehicle and generally describe the type of vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing to be operated or moved and the particular state highways over which the vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing is to be moved and whether the permit is required for a single trip or for continuous operation.

(3) The department may enter into a contract with a private party to act as an agent of the department for the purpose of issuing, in writing, a special permit allowed under this section.

**61-10-122. Discretion of issuer -- conditions.** The department of transportation or local authority may issue or withhold a special permit at its discretion or, if the permit is issued, limit the number of trips or establish seasonal or other time limitations within which the vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing described may be operated on the public highways indicated, or otherwise limit or prescribe conditions of operation of the vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing when necessary to assure against damage to the road foundation, surfaces, or structures or safety of traffic, and may require an undertaking or other security considered necessary to compensate for injury to a roadway or road structure. During harvest no permit may be denied to oversize harvest or harvest-related agricultural machinery solely on the grounds that the travel takes place on a Saturday or

Sunday. No permit may be denied to dealers in implements of husbandry and self-propelled machinery solely on the grounds that the travel may take place on a Saturday or Sunday.

**61-10-123. Haystack movers.** A self-propelled vehicle used only for the purpose of moving haystacks on a commercial basis is subject to 61-10-121 through 61-10-127, except as follows:

- (1) The vehicle, loaded or unloaded, may not exceed 55 feet in length or 20 feet in width.
- (2) A single load may not be moved on the vehicle a distance greater than 75 miles from the point of origin on public roads.
- (3) When the vehicle is hauling a load, it shall be accompanied by two pilot cars. Each car shall be equipped with a flashing warning light, a red flag, and a sign with the words "wide load" written on it. One car shall precede the vehicle by not less than 100 yards or more than one-fourth mile, and one shall follow the vehicle at a distance not less than 100 yards or more than one-fourth mile. The following pilot car shall be in radio contact with the vehicle at all times.
- (4) The speed of the vehicle shall be reasonable and proper but not in excess of 35 miles per hour.
- (5) The vehicle shall be operated only between the hours of sunrise and sunset.
- (6) The vehicle may not be operated on an interstate or controlled-access highway.
- (7) A term or blanket permit may be issued for the vehicle.

**61-10-124. (Effective on occurrence of contingency) Special permits -- fees.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2)(b), (2)(d), and (4), in addition to the regular registration and gross vehicle weight fees, a fee of \$10 for each trip permit and a fee of \$75 for each term permit issued for size in excess of that specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 must be paid for all movements under special permits on the public highways under the jurisdiction of the department of transportation.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsections (2)(b), (2)(d), (2)(f), (4), and (5), term or blanket permits may not be issued for an overwidth vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of 15 feet; an overlength vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing in excess of 95 feet; or an overheight vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of 14 feet or of a limit determined by the department. A vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of these dimensions is limited to trip permits. A Rocky Mountain double may not exceed 81 feet in combined trailer length. A Rocky Mountain double is not subject to a combination length limit. Special permits for vehicle combinations of more than two trailers or more than two units designed for or used to carry a load are not permitted except as provided in subsections (4) and (5). Special permits for vehicle combinations may specify and special permits under subsections (4) and (5) must specify highway routing and otherwise limit or prescribe conditions of operation of the vehicle or combination, including but not limited to required equipment, speed, stability, operational procedures, and insurance.

(b) A term permit may be issued to a dealer in implements of husbandry and self-propelled machinery for an overwidth or overlength vehicle referred to in subsection (2)(a). The fee for this permit is \$75. This permit expires on December 31 of each year, with no grace period.

(c) With payment of the appropriate gross weight fees required by 61-10-201 and with payment of the fee prescribed in subsection (1), allowable gross weight of a five-axle combination logging vehicle is 80,000 pounds.

(d) A term permit may be issued for any combination of vehicles that exceeds 95 feet in length but does not exceed 100 feet in combination length, except a truck-trailer-trailer or a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer-trailer combination, for travel only on highways that are part of the federal-aid interstate system, as defined in 60-1-103, or on other highways within a 2-mile radius of an interchange on the interstate system in order to obtain necessary services or to load or unload at a terminal. When a terminal is beyond a 2-mile radius, the department may authorize travel between the terminal and the interchange. The fee for this permit is \$125.

(e) A term permit may be issued for a truck tractor-semitrailer combination when the semitrailer exceeds 53 feet in length but does not exceed 57 feet in length.



(f) (i) An annual permit may be issued for nondivisible loads up to 120 feet in length. The fee for this permit is \$125.

(ii) Portions of a nondivisible load hauled on a public road off of the interstate highway may be detached and reloaded on the same hauling unit if the separate pieces are necessary to the operation of the machine or equipment that is being hauled and if the arrangement does not exceed limits for which a permit may be issued.

(iii) An applicant for a nondivisible load permit for use as provided in subsection (6)(b) is responsible for providing information regarding the number of work hours required to dismantle the load.

(iv) For use as provided in subsection (6)(b) and for the purposes of this section, emergency response vehicles and casks designed and used for the transport of spent nuclear materials are considered nondivisible loads.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), a permit may not be issued for a period of time greater than the period for which the GVW license is valid as provided in this title, including grace periods allowed by this title. Owners of vehicles licensed in other jurisdictions may, at the discretion of the department of transportation, purchase permits to expire with their registration. A license required by the state governs the issuance of a special permit.

(4) The department may issue special permits to the operating company for a truck-trailer-trailer or truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer-trailer combination of vehicles under the following conditions:

(a) the combination may be operated only on highways that are part of the federal-aid interstate system, as defined in 60-1-103, and within a 2-mile radius of an interchange on the interstate system on other highways only in order to obtain necessary services or to load or unload at a terminal. When a terminal is beyond a 2-mile radius, the department may authorize travel between the terminal and the interchange.

(b) the combined trailer length may not exceed 95 feet;

(c) an individual cargo unit of the combination may not exceed 28 1/2 feet in length and 102 inches in width;

(d) gross weight fees under 61-10-201 must be paid on the truck or truck tractor for the declared registered gross weight of the special vehicle combination, but not to exceed the formula in 61-10-107;

(e) the combination must have a special overlength permit issued at a fee of \$200 for a term permit or \$20 for each trip permit;

(f) travel of the combination may be restricted to specific routes, hours of operation, specific days, or seasonal periods; and

(g) the department may enforce any other restrictions determined by the department to be necessary. The permit is not transferable, and the fee for the permit is \$200.

(5) The department of transportation may issue special permits under subsection (4) for vehicle combinations that consist of a truck-trailer-trailer if:

(a) the vehicle combination's overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, is not more than 95 feet; and

(b) the person, firm, or corporation applying for the permit:

(i) restricts truck-trailer-trailer operations authorized by the permit to the hauling of talc ore, chlorite, dolomite, limestone, and custom combine equipment;

(ii) operated the truck-trailer-trailer combination before July 1, 1987;

(iii) restricts the truck-trailer-trailer operations authorized by the permit to the specified routes that those vehicles used before July 1, 1987; and

(iv) provides the department of transportation with an affidavit confirming the routes used before July 1, 1987, for truck-trailer-trailer operations.

(6) For the purposes of this section, a "nondivisible load" is:

(a) on public roads off of interstate highways, a load that cannot be readily or reasonably dismantled and that is reduced to a minimum practical size and weight;

(b) on interstate highways, a load or vehicle exceeding applicable length or weight limits that, if separated into smaller loads or vehicles, would:

- (i) compromise the intended use of the vehicle;
- (ii) destroy the value of the load or vehicle; or
- (iii) require more than 8 work hours to dismantle using appropriate equipment.

(iv) For use as provided in subsection (6)(b) and for the purposes of this section, emergency response vehicles and casks designed and used for the transport of spent nuclear materials are considered nondivisible loads.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), a permit may not be issued for a period of time greater than the period for which the GVW license is valid as provided in this title, including grace periods allowed by this title. Owners of vehicles licensed in other jurisdictions may, at the discretion of the department of transportation, purchase permits to expire with their registration. A license required by the state governs the issuance of a special permit.

(4) The department may issue special permits to the operating company for a truck-trailer-trailer or truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer-trailer combination of vehicles under the following conditions:

(a) the combination may be operated only on highways that are part of the federal-aid interstate system, as defined in 60-1-103, and within a 2-mile radius of an interchange on the interstate system on other highways only in order to obtain necessary services or to load or unload at a terminal. When a terminal is beyond a 2-mile radius, the department may authorize travel between the terminal and the interchange.

(b) the combined trailer length may not exceed 95 feet;

(c) an individual cargo unit of the combination may not exceed 28 1/2 feet in length and 102 inches in width;

(d) gross weight fees under 61-10-201 must be paid on the truck or truck tractor for the declared registered gross weight of the special vehicle combination, but not to exceed the formula in 61-10-107;

(e) the combination must have a special overlength permit issued at a fee of \$200 for a term permit or \$20 for each trip permit;

(f) travel of the combination may be restricted to specific routes, hours of operation, specific days, or seasonal periods; and

(g) the department may enforce any other restrictions determined by the department to be necessary. The permit is not transferable, and the fee for the permit is \$200.

(5) The department of transportation may issue special permits under subsection (4) for vehicle combinations that consist of a truck-trailer-trailer if:

(a) the vehicle combination's overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, is not more than 95 feet; and

(b) the person, firm, or corporation applying for the permit:

(i) restricts truck-trailer-trailer operations authorized by the permit to the hauling of talc ore, chlorite, dolomite, limestone, and custom combine equipment;

(ii) operated the truck-trailer-trailer combination before July 1, 1987;

(iii) restricts the truck-trailer-trailer operations authorized by the permit to the specified routes that those vehicles used before July 1, 1987; and

(iv) provides the department of transportation with an affidavit confirming the routes used before July 1, 1987, for truck-trailer-trailer operations.

(6) For the purposes of this section, a "nondivisible load" is:

(a) on public roads off of interstate highways, a load that cannot be readily or reasonably dismantled and that is reduced to a minimum practical size and weight;

(b) on interstate highways, a load or vehicle exceeding applicable length or weight limits that, if separated into smaller loads or vehicles, would:

(i) compromise the intended use of the vehicle;

(ii) destroy the value of the load or vehicle; or

(iii) require more than 8 work hours to dismantle using appropriate equipment.

**61-10-125. Other fees.** (1) There is charged for a single trip permit for a load that is over the gross allowable load provided for by the formula in 61-10-107(1) but that does not exceed axle limits set forth in 61-10-107(1):

- (a) \$10 for distances to and including 100 miles;
- (b) \$30 for distances from 101 to 199 miles; and
- (c) \$50 for distances over 200 miles traveled.

(2) (a) There is charged a fee of:

(i) \$200 for a term permit for a load that is in excess of the limits set forth in 61-10-107(1) but that does not exceed a total of 5,000 pounds in excess axle weight;

(ii) \$500 for a term permit for a load that is in excess of the limits set forth in 61-10-107(1) but that does not exceed a total of 10,000 pounds in excess axle weight, with no single axle exceeding 5,000 pounds in excess axle weight;

(iii) \$750 for a term permit for a load that is in excess of the limits set forth in 61-10-107(1) but that does not exceed a total of 15,000 pounds in excess axle weight, with no single axle exceeding 5,000 pounds in excess axle weight;

(iv) \$1,000 for a term permit for a load that is in excess of the limits set forth in 61-10-107(1) but that does not exceed a total of 20,000 pounds in excess axle weight, with no single axle exceeding 5,000 pounds in excess axle weight and no tandem axle exceeding 15,000 pounds in excess axle weight;

(v) \$1,500 for a term permit for a load that is in excess of the limits set forth in 61-10-107(1) but that does not exceed a total of 25,000 pounds in excess axle weight, with no axle or axle group exceeding the maximum weight allowed by a weight analysis conducted by the department of transportation;

(vi) \$2,000 for a term permit for a load that is in excess of the limits set forth in 61-10-107(1) but that does not exceed a total of 30,000 pounds in excess axle weight, with no axle or axle group exceeding the maximum weight allowed by a weight analysis conducted by the department of transportation;

(vii) \$4,000 for a term permit for a load that is in excess of the limits set forth in 61-10-107(1) but that does not exceed a total of 40,000 pounds in excess axle weight, with no axle or axle group exceeding the maximum weight allowed by a weight analysis conducted by the department of transportation.

(b) The fees provided in subsection (2)(a) are annual fees but may be prorated on a quarterly basis and may be paid quarterly, semiannually, or annually. However, if the fee is paid other than annually, there is an additional fee of \$10 each time a fee is paid.

(c) A permit issued under this subsection (2) is valid for a period of no less than 1 calendar quarter and no more than 1 calendar year.

(d) The department of transportation or its agent may not issue a term permit for loads that exceed 10,000 pounds in excess axle weight unless the person applying for the term permit has obtained approval from the department of transportation, through a weight analysis, for the configuration of the vehicle.

(3) There is charged for a permit to move a load that exceeds the single axle, tandem axle, or axle group limits set forth in 61-10-107(1) the following fee based upon the sum of excess in axle or axle group weights:

Total Excess Axle Weight (pounds)	Calculated Cost of 25 Miles of Travel (dollars)
5,000	3.50
10,000	7.00
15,000	10.50
20,000	14.00
25,000	17.50
30,000	21.00
35,000	24.50

40,000	28.00
45,000	31.50
50,000	35.00
55,000	38.50
60,000	42.00
65,000	45.50
70,000	49.00
75,000	52.50
80,000	56.00
85,000	59.50
90,000	63.00
95,000	66.50
100,000	70.00
over 100,000	70.00 + 3.50 per 5,000 lbs. or part of 5,000 lbs. in excess of 100,000 lbs.

(4) For purposes of subsection (3):

(a) mileage must be rounded off in units of 25 miles and mileage in excess of a 25-mile increment must be assessed at the next higher 25-mile increment; and

(b) weight must be rounded off in 5,000-pound increments and weight in excess of a 5,000-pound increment must be assessed at the next higher 5,000-pound increment.

(5) A vehicle must be licensed to the maximum allowable weight authorized under 61-10-107 before an overweight permit may be issued.

**61-10-126. Deposit of fees.** All fees collected under 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-125 must be forwarded to the department of revenue for deposit in the highway nonrestricted account in the state special revenue fund.

**61-10-127. Permits issued to governmental entities.** Permits issued to the United States government, states, counties, cities, and their political subdivisions shall be issued without fee for a term beginning with the date of issuance and expiring December 31.

**61-10-128. When authorities may restrict right to use roadway.** (1) A local authority may not alter the limitations provided in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110 or substitute other limitations or requirements, except as provided in this section.

(2) The department of transportation by order, or a local road authority by ordinance or resolution, may prohibit the operation of or impose restrictions on the weight and speed of a vehicle traveling on a public highway under its respective jurisdiction and for which it is responsible for maintenance whenever the highway will be seriously damaged or destroyed by deterioration, rain, snow, or other climatic conditions, unless the use of vehicles on the highway is prohibited or the permissible vehicle weights and speed are reduced. The department of transportation or the authority that enacts the ordinance or resolution shall erect signs designating the department's order or the authority's ordinance or resolution at each end of that portion of the highway affected, and the order, ordinance, or resolution is not effective until the signs are erected. The department of transportation or the authority by ordinance or resolution may prohibit the operation of trucks or other commercial vehicles or impose limitations on their weight on designated highways, subject to the provisions of subsection (3). These prohibitions and limitations must be designated by appropriate signs placed on the highways.

(3) Neither the department of transportation nor a local authority may prohibit the operation of or impose a restriction on the weight of a vehicle loaded with perishable seed potatoes that is traveling on a public highway if:

(a) the vehicle is being operated within its legal licensed gross vehicle weight;

- (b) the driver possesses a federal-state inspection certificate issued for the load; and
- (c) the vehicle takes the most direct route from the point of loading to the nearest nonrestricted road.

(4) Hay grinders and their towing units are exempt from weight limits imposed by the department of transportation under this section.

**61-10-129. Rules regarding overlength vehicles.** The department of transportation may adopt rules to implement 61-10-124 and may by rule prescribe standards for the qualifications of drivers operating special vehicle combinations under 61-10-124 and for the equipping and operation of such combinations to enhance highway traffic safety.

**61-10-130. Custom combiner's special permit -- fee -- collection -- distribution -- not transferable.** (1) In lieu of the taxes required by

and in lieu of motor vehicle license fees, gross vehicle weight fees, and overwidth, overlength, and overheight permits provided for in Title 61, a nonresident engaged in the business of custom combining who brings equipment into the state may pay a special permit fee of \$40 for each unit. A unit includes:

- (a) one truck suitable for hauling grain;
- (b) one header trailer or one combine trailer; and
- (c) pickup trucks and all other equipment, except combines, used by a nonresident and brought into the state as part of the nonresident's business of custom combining.

(2) In lieu of gross vehicle weight fees and overwidth, overlength, and overheight permits, Montana residents engaged in the business of custom combining may pay the annual farm gross vehicle weight fees and a special permit fee of \$20 for each unit. A unit includes:

- (a) one truck suitable for hauling grain;
- (b) one header trailer or one combine trailer; and
- (c) pickup trucks used by the resident in the resident's business of custom combining.

(3) When used to transport agricultural products, a truck authorized to be used under a custom combiner's special permit may be operated only within a 100-mile radius from the harvested field to the point of first unloading. The truck may not haul agricultural products from one commercial elevator to another commercial elevator. The truck may be operated on any highway, except a highway that is part of the federal-aid interstate system, without incurring excess weight penalties under 61-10-145 if the total gross weight of the truck does not exceed allowable weight limitations by more than 20% for each axle and the maximum load for each inch of tire width does not exceed 670 pounds. A trip permit is not required. If the truck exceeds the tolerance provided under this subsection, the fine or penalty imposed applies to all weight over the legal limit allowed by 61-10-107.

(4) A combine trailer authorized to be used under subsection (1)(b) or (2)(b) may be operated under the same limitations, except that the 100-mile limitation does not apply and the combine trailer may be used upon any highway of the state, including a highway that is part of the federal-aid interstate system. If the combine trailer exceeds the tolerance provided under subsection (3), the fine or penalty imposed applies to all weight over the legal limit allowed by 61-10-107.

(5) The fee required by this section must be collected by the department of transportation. Upon payment of the fee, the department of transportation shall provide an identifying device to be displayed on each truck, header trailer, or combine trailer and other equipment used by the nonresident or resident in the person's business of custom combining in the state. The device is valid for the calendar year in which the fee is collected.

(6) All fees collected under this section must be distributed not later than January 31 immediately following the period of licensure as follows:

- (a) 62 1/2% to the state general fund; and
- (b) 37 1/2% to the state special revenue fund for the department of transportation.

(7) The identifying devices and fee paid for each unit are not transferable from one vehicle to another or transferable on the sale or change of ownership.

(8) The department of transportation may adopt rules, as provided in Title 2, chapter 4, to implement the provisions of this section.

**61-10-141. Officers authorized to weigh vehicles and require removal of excessive loads -- enforcement of motor carrier safety standards -- duty to obtain bills of lading for agricultural seeds -- authority to inspect diesel-powered vehicles.** (1) A peace officer, officer of the highway patrol, or employee of the department of transportation may weigh any vehicle regulated by 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110, except recreational vehicles as defined in 61-1-132, by means of either portable or stationary scales and may require that the vehicle be driven to the nearest scales if those scales are within 2 miles. That person may then require the driver to unload at a designated facility that portion of the load necessary to decrease the weight of the vehicle to conform to the maximum allowable weights specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110. If the excess weight does not exceed 10,000 pounds, an excess weight permit may be issued in accordance with 61-10-121. The permit authorizes the driver of the excess weight load to proceed to a designated facility where the load can be safely reduced to legal limits.

(2) Commodities and material unloaded as required by this section must be cared for by the owner or operator of the vehicle at the risk of that owner or operator. Commodities or material unloaded as required by this section may not be left on the highway right-of-way.

(3) The department of transportation may establish, maintain, and operate weigh stations, either intermittently or on a continuous schedule, and may require vehicles, except passenger cars and pickup trucks under 14,000 pounds GVW and recreational vehicles as defined in 61-1-132 (that are not new or used recreational vehicles traveling into or through Montana for delivery to a distributor or a dealer), to enter for the purpose of weighing and inspection for compliance with all laws pertaining to their operation and safety requirements. The department may require vehicles over 10,000 pounds to be inspected and weighed by portable scale crews

(4) The department of transportation shall work with the highway patrol in the enforcement of safety standards adopted pursuant to 44-1-1005. For the purposes of the joint enforcement, the highway patrol is designated as the lead agency. The highway patrol and the department of transportation shall cooperate to ensure minimum duplication and maximum coordination of enforcement effort.

(5) In order to enforce compliance with safety standards adopted pursuant to 44-1-1005, the department of transportation shall designate employees as peace officers. The designated employees must be employed in the administration of the motor carrier services functions of the department of transportation. Each employee designated as a peace officer may:

(a) issue citations and make arrests in connection with violations of safety standards adopted under 44-1-1005;

(b) issue summons;

(c) accept bail;

(d) serve warrants for arrest;

(e) make reasonable inspections of cargo carried by commercial motor vehicles;

(f) make reasonable safety inspections of commercial motor vehicles used by motor carriers; and

(g) require production of documents relating to the cargo, driver, routing, or ownership of the commercial motor vehicles.

(6) In addition to other enforcement duties assigned under this section, an employee of the department of transportation who is appointed pursuant to 61-12-201 has:

(a) the same authority to enforce provisions of the motor carriers law as that granted the public service commission under 69-12-203;

(b) the duty to secure or make copies, or both, of all bills of lading or other evidence of delivery for shipment of agricultural seeds as defined in 80-5-120 that have been sold or are intended for sale in

Montana and to forward the copies to the department of agriculture within 24 hours of the date the bill of lading was obtained; and

(c) the authority, if probable cause exists, to stop and inspect a supply tank connected to the engine of any diesel-powered motor vehicle operating on the public highways of this state in order to determine compliance with Title 15, chapter 70, part 3.

(7) The department of transportation shall report to the revenue and transportation interim committee at least once each year on its enforcement, pursuant to the authority provided in subsection (6)(c), of the provisions of Title 15, chapter 70, part 3, and on any impacts that enforcement has had on the state special revenue fund.

**61-10-142. Display of permit.** A special permit issued under 61-10-121 shall be carried in the vehicle or combination of vehicles to which it refers and shall be open to inspection by any peace officer, officer of the highway patrol, or employee of the department of transportation.

**61-10-143. Confiscation -- action by commission.** A peace officer, officer of the highway patrol, or employee of the department of transportation who finds a person operating a vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing in violation of the conditions of a special permit may confiscate the permit and forward it to the commission. The commission may return it to the permittee or revoke, cancel, or suspend it without refund. The commission shall keep a record of all action taken upon confiscated permits, and if a permit is returned to the permittee, the action taken by the commission shall be endorsed on it. A permittee whose permit is suspended or revoked may, upon request, receive a hearing before the commission or person designated by the commission. The commission, after the hearing, may reinstate the permit or revise its previous action.

**61-10-144. Violation of standards -- tolerance.** (1) It is a misdemeanor for a person, firm, or corporation to violate any provision of 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110.

(2) The operator of a vehicle or combination of vehicles may move over the highways to the first open state scale, permanent or portable, without incurring the excess weight penalties set forth in 61-10-145 if the total gross weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles does not exceed allowable total gross weight limitations by more than 10% and if the weight carried by any axle or combination of axles does not exceed the allowable axle weight limitations by more than 10%. If the vehicle or combination of vehicles is not in excess of the allowable total gross or axle weight limitations by more than 10%, the department may issue a single trip permit for the fee of \$10, allowing the vehicle or combination of vehicles to move over the highways to the first facility where its load can be safely adjusted or to its destination. Violations of total gross or axle weight limitations in excess of 10% are subject to the fines provided in 61-10-145, and all loads in excess of 10% of the total gross or axle weight limitations:

(a) may be required to be adjusted or reduced to conform to the size and weight limitations before the vehicle or combination of vehicles is moved from the point of weighing; or

(b) may be issued a permit as authorized by 61-10-141.

(3) Farm vehicles transporting agricultural products from a harvesting combine or other harvesting machinery may be operated on any highway, except a highway that is part of the federal-aid interstate system, within a 100-mile radius of the harvested field to the point of first unloading without incurring excess weight penalties under 61-10-145 if the total gross weight of the farm vehicle or combination of vehicles does not exceed allowable weight limitations by more than 20% for each axle and the maximum load for each inch of tire width does not exceed 670 pounds. A single trip permit, as required in subsection (2), is not applicable to the farm vehicle or combination of vehicles. When a farm vehicle or combination of vehicles violates any of the provisions of this subsection, the fine or penalty imposed applies to that portion of the load above the legal limit.

**61-10-145. Penalties.** (1) A person, firm, or corporation convicted of violating 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110 shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$30 or more than \$100. A person, firm, or corporation convicted of operating a motor vehicle upon the public highways of this state with weight upon a wheel, axle, or group of axles greater than the maximum permitted by 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110 shall be fined, in addition to other penalties provided by law for the offense, the following amounts:

- (a) \$30 for any excess weight up to and including 2,000 pounds;
- (b) \$75 for any excess weight more than 2,000 pounds and less than 4,001 pounds;
- (c) \$125 for any excess weight more than 4,000 pounds and less than 6,001 pounds;
- (d) \$175 for any excess weight more than 6,000 pounds and less than 8,001 pounds;
- (e) \$250 for any excess weight more than 8,000 pounds and less than 10,001 pounds;
- (f) \$275 for any excess weight more than 10,000 pounds and less than 12,001 pounds;
- (g) \$300 for any excess weight more than 12,000 pounds and less than 14,001 pounds;
- (h) \$400 for any excess weight more than 14,000 pounds and less than 16,001 pounds;
- (i) \$500 for any excess weight more than 16,000 pounds and less than 18,001 pounds;
- (j) \$600 for any excess weight more than 18,000 pounds and less than 20,001 pounds;
- (k) \$1,000 for any excess weight more than 20,000 pounds and less than 25,001 pounds;
- (l) \$2,000 for any excess weight more than 25,000 pounds.

(2) If a motor vehicle is equipped with a retractable axle that is not fully extended and carrying its proportionate share of the load while the motor vehicle is operated upon the highways of this state, the weight penalties in subsection (1) apply to all weight over the legal maximum allowed by the fixed axles regardless of whether the axle is extended at the time of weighing. In addition to the penalties in subsection (1), the owner or operator shall be fined \$100 for failure to have the retractable axle fully extended while the gross weight of the vehicle exceeds the legal maximum allowed by the fixed axles.

(3) A complaint filed and a summons or notice to appear issued pertaining to a violation of the gross weight regulations in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110 must specify the amount of the excess weight that the defendant is alleged to have had upon the vehicle or combination of vehicles.

(4) It is a misdemeanor, punishable as provided in 46-18-212, for a person, firm, or corporation to violate any of the provisions of 61-10-123, 61-10-141, or 61-10-142.

**61-10-146. Special permits -- misrepresentations and violations as misdemeanor.** (1) A person who knowingly and willfully misrepresents the size or weight of a vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing in obtaining a special permit or who does not follow the requirements and conditions of the special permit or who operates a vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing the size or weight of which requires a special permit without first obtaining a special permit is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) A person, firm, or corporation convicted of:

(a) operating a vehicle or combination of vehicles with weight upon a wheel, axle, or group of axles greater than the maximum authorized by a special permit or of operating without a special permit a vehicle or combination of vehicles the weight of which requires a special permit shall, in addition to the other penalties provided by law for the offense, be punished by a fine in the amount provided in 61-10-145(1); or

(b) violating any provision of 61-10-124(4) or any restriction on the special permits issued by the department under 61-10-124(4) shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$500 or more than \$1,000, and all special permits issued for the operation of the combination in violation must be confiscated. The combination must be separated into combinations of legal length before the units may proceed.



**61-10-147. Penalties for using highway when use is restricted.** (1) It is a misdemeanor for a person, firm, or corporation to violate any of the provisions of 61-10-128(2).

(2) A person, firm, or corporation first convicted of a misdemeanor for a violation of any of the provisions of 61-10-128(2) shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$10 or more than \$50 or by imprisonment in the county or municipal jail for not less than 5 days or more than 25 days. For a second conviction within 1 year the person, firm, or corporation shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$200 or by imprisonment in the county or municipal jail for not less than 25 days or more than 100 days or by both this fine and imprisonment. Upon a third or subsequent conviction within 1 year after the first conviction the person, firm, or corporation shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$200 or more than \$500 or by imprisonment in the county or municipal jail for not less than 100 days or more than 6 months or by both this fine and imprisonment.

**61-10-148. Disposition of fines and forfeited bonds.** (1) Except as provided in 61-12-701 and subsection (2) of this section, all the money collected as fines and forfeited bonds for violations of Title 61, chapter 10, must be remitted monthly by the county treasurer to the department of revenue, as provided in 15-1-504, for deposit in the state general fund. This subsection does not apply to fines and forfeited bonds paid to justices' courts.

(2) If the apprehension or arrest was for a violation of Title 61, chapter 10, and if the offense occurred on a road or highway not included under the provisions of 60-2-128 and 60-2-203, all money collected as fines and forfeited bonds must be distributed to the county treasurer for deposit in the county road fund.

**61-10-155. Rulemaking authority.** The department of transportation may adopt and enforce rules to implement this chapter.

### **Gross Vehicle Weight Fee Requirements**

**61-10-201. Weight fees on motortrucks, truck tractors, and buses.** In addition to other fees for the licensing of vehicles, there must be paid and collected annually for each truck, truck tractor, and bus, based upon the manufacturer's rated capacity for trucks with a capacity of 1 ton or less and upon the maximum gross loaded weight and the maximum gross weight of any towed unit of each truck and truck tractor as set by the licensee in the licensee's application, the following fees:  
Schedule I

Manufacturer's rated capacity up to 1/2 ton	\$ 7.00
Manufacturer's rated capacity of 3/4 ton	12.50
Manufacturer's rated capacity of 1 ton	17.50
Up to 16,000 lbs	21.00
16,001 through 18,000 lbs	28.00
18,001 through 20,000 lbs	37.50
20,001 through 22,000 lbs	47.00
22,001 through 24,000 lbs	70.00
24,001 through 26,000 lbs	90.00
26,001 through 28,000 lbs	110.00
28,001 through 30,000 lbs	130.00
30,001 through 32,000 lbs	150.00
32,001 through 34,000 lbs	170.00
34,001 through 36,000 lbs	190.00

36,001 through 38,000 lbs	215.00
38,001 through 40,000 lbs	235.00
40,001 through 42,000 lbs	255.00
42,001 through 44,000 lbs	275.00
44,001 through 46,000 lbs	300.00
46,001 through 48,000 lbs	320.00
48,001 through 50,000 lbs	340.00
50,001 through 52,000 lbs	360.00
52,001 through 54,000 lbs	380.00
54,001 through 56,000 lbs	400.00
56,001 through 58,000 lbs	420.00
58,001 through 60,000 lbs	440.00
60,001 through 62,000 lbs	460.00
62,001 through 64,000 lbs	482.50
64,001 through 66,000 lbs	502.50
66,001 through 68,000 lbs	522.50
68,001 through 70,000 lbs	545.75
70,001 through 72,000 lbs	566.50
72,001 through 74,000 lbs	607.50
74,001 through 76,000 lbs	655.00
76,001 through 78,000 lbs	695.00
78,001 through 80,000 lbs	750.00

Over 80,000 lbs. and within the weight limits specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110 750.00

plus an additional 46.00  
for each ton or fraction of a ton  
in excess of 80,000 lbs.  
plus an additional \$100.00  
to exceed the 80,000 lbs.  
federal gross weight limit.

**61-10-206. Special fees -- certain farm vehicles.** (1) Except for motortrucks owned and operated by cooperative associations or cooperative marketing associations, there must be paid and collected annually a fee equal to 35% of the fees provided in 61-10-201 on:

- (a) motortrucks owned and operated by ranchers or farmers in:
    - (i) the transportation of their own ranch, farm, orchard, or dairy products from point of production to market;
    - (ii) the transportation of timber harvested on their own ranch, farm, orchard, or dairy from point of harvest to market;
    - (iii) the transportation of supplies, commodities, or equipment to be used on the ranch, farm, orchard, or dairy;
    - (iv) the infrequent or seasonal transportation by one farmer for another for any purpose other than commercial hire of products of the farm, orchard, or dairy; or
    - (v) the transportation of supplies or commodities to be used on the farm, orchard, or dairy; and
  - (b) one truck tractor and lowboy trailer used by contractors engaged exclusively in soil conservation work and land leveling activities that result in direct benefit to agriculture.
- (2) The minimum fee is \$6.

**61-10-209. Monthly payment -- quarterly payment -- penalty for failure to pay fee.** (1)

When the gross weight of a vehicle exceeds 24,000 pounds, the gross weight or special fees for trucks, tractors, or buses may be paid for a 1-month period for one-twelfth the regular fee or for a 3-month period for one-fourth the regular fee at the beginning of any quarter of the calendar year. For each fee paid other than at the time of payment of the annual vehicle registration fee, an additional fee of \$5 must be charged. The department may adopt rules relative to the issuance and display of certificates or insignia, which must state the months for which the vehicle is licensed.

(2) A vehicle licensed under this section may not be operated over the public highways after the expiration of:

(a) the 1-month period until the owner pays the required fee for a license for an additional 1-month or 3-month period or for the remainder of the year; or

(b) the 3-month period unless the owner or operator of the vehicle, within 10 calendar days or 7 business days as provided by law, whichever is greater, pays the required fee for a license for an additional 1-month or 3-month period or for the remainder of the year.

(3) A person who operates a vehicle upon the public highways in violation of subsection (2) is guilty of a misdemeanor. In addition the person is required to purchase a gross weight license for the vehicle involved at the fee covering an entire year's license for operation of the vehicle less the fees for the period of the year already paid.

(4) If, within 5 days after a requirement under subsection (3) is applicable, a license for a full year has not been purchased as required, the Montana highway patrol, county sheriff, or city police may impound the vehicle in the manner that is directed for these cases by the department until the requirement is met.

**61-10-211. Fees on motortrucks, truck tractors, trailers, and semitrailers from other states.**

(1) In lieu of other fees for the licensing of vehicles, there must be collected a fee for each motortruck and truck tractor already licensed for the year in another jurisdiction and operated upon an itinerant basis in this state. The fee provided in subsection (2) must be collected upon each entrance of the vehicle into the state and must be based upon the number of miles to be traveled in the state and the registered gross vehicle weight of the motortruck or truck tractor as shown in the application of the nonresident operator.

(2) The fee for each trip in Montana is:

	0-200 miles	201-400 miles	over 400 miles
Up to 46,000 lbs.	\$10	\$15	\$20
46,001 through 80,000 lbs	20	30	40
Over 80,001	50	65	80
Triple combination	60	80	100

(3) The fees do not apply to any trailer the principal use of which is as temporary or permanent living quarters, or to any vehicle of a carnival that is under contract with a state, county, or district fair association.

(4) A fee must be collected for each nonresident, unlicensed or unregistered trailer or semitrailer entering Montana. The fee for each trip in Montana is:

(a) \$10 for each trip of 200 miles or less;

(b) \$15 for each trip of over 200 miles to 400 miles; and

(c) \$20 for each trip of over 400 miles.

**61-10-212. Temporary trip permits showing payment of fees -- display.** (1) Temporary trip permits showing payment of the fees provided for in 61-10-211 shall be issued under rules prescribed by the department. The permit shall be displayed in the vehicle for which the fee has been paid at all times while the vehicle is being operated on the highways of this state by posting it where it may be read.

(2) The department may limit the operation of the vehicle in this state to a definite period of time.

**61-10-213. Time for payment of fees by nonresidents -- disposition.** A nonresident owner or operator of a motortruck, truck tractor, trailer, or semitrailer shall, immediately upon arrival in the state, contact the nearest highway patrol office, any department office, the county sheriff, or the county treasurer's office to pay the fee and secure the permit prescribed. All fees collected shall immediately be remitted to the county treasurer.

**61-10-214. Exemptions.** (1) Motor vehicles operating exclusively for transportation of persons for hire within the limits of incorporated cities or towns and within 15 miles from the limits are exempt from this part.

(2) Motor vehicles brought or driven into Montana by a nonresident, migratory, bona fide agricultural worker temporarily employed in agricultural work in this state when those motor vehicles are used exclusively for transportation of agricultural workers are exempt from this part.

(3) Vehicles lawfully displaying a dealer's or wholesaler's plate as provided in 61-4-102 and 61-4-125 are exempt from this part for a period not to exceed 7 days when moving to or from a dealer's or wholesaler's place of business when unloaded or loaded with dealer's or wholesaler's property only or while being demonstrated in the course of the dealer's or wholesaler's business. Vehicles being demonstrated may not be leased, rented, or operated for compensation by the licensed dealer or wholesaler.

(4) Vehicles exempt from property tax under 15-6-201(1)(a), (1)(c) through (1)(e), (1)(g), (1)(o), (1)(q), and (1)(v) are exempt from this part. The department of transportation may require documentation of tax-exempt status from the department of revenue before granting this exemption.

**61-10-215. Additional tax by municipalities prohibited -- exceptions.** Municipalities shall not levy, assess, collect, or charge any additional tax upon any carrier of persons or property for hire, except as provided by law. However, no carrier shall be exempt hereby from paying a parking, curb, or ad valorem property tax levied by any municipality.

**61-10-221. Purpose of fees.** The fees provided in this part are in consideration of the right to use the highways of the state of Montana.

**61-10-222. Time for payment of fees.** (1) Prior to or at the time of registration of the vehicle as required under chapter 3 or chapter 4 or prior to the operation of the vehicle on the public highways, fees provided in this part must be paid in the full amount unless otherwise provided by law. With respect to vehicles operating on the highways with a current 20-day permit issued under the provisions of 61-4-111 or 61-4-112, the fees provided in this part are due and payable at the time of registration.

(2) A person who applies for a GVW license after July 1 of any year shall pay one-half of the fees provided in this part.

(3) When a person applies for registration required under chapter 3 for a period of time other than the calendar year, the fees provided in this part must be computed for the registration period at one-twelfth of the applicable fee for each month or part of month in the registration period.

**61-10-223. Expiration date.** Any GVW license issued shall be valid only for the period for which issued.

**61-10-224. GVW license transferable.** The GVW license issued hereunder is transferable by the licensee of a truck, truck tractor, trailer, semitrailer, lowboy trailer, pole trailer, housetrailer, or passenger car to a replacement vehicle of the same type. This gross vehicle weight license transfer may take place without the licensee transferring ownership of the first vehicle. If the transfer is to a smaller vehicle, there shall be no refund.

**61-10-225. Disposition of fees collected by county treasurer.** At the time of collecting the fees provided for in 61-10-222, each county treasurer shall retain 5% of the fees for the cost of administration and for deposit in the general fund of the county. The remaining 95% must be remitted monthly to the state treasurer for deposit to the credit of the department of transportation in the highway revenue account. The remittance must be made on forms furnished to the county treasurer by the department.

**61-10-226. Deposit of state highway money.** (1) Money received for the use of the department from the receipt or transfer of GVW license fees, as provided by law, or from other state sources must be deposited in the highway revenue account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department.

(2) Money received from the federal government or other agencies must be deposited in a federal or state special revenue fund to the credit of the department.

(3) Money collected for the department as authorized by law must be credited to the appropriate fund by the state treasurer.

(4) Money received from the counties must be deposited in the appropriate account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department.

**61-10-227. Blank forms furnished county treasurers.** The department shall furnish all county treasurers with the following:

(1) blank application forms and affidavit forms outlining and providing for the information needed in each classification of license required;

(2) GVW licenses in a form determined most suitable by the department;

(3) the other forms, stickers, certificates, or blanks the department considers necessary to carry out this part.

**61-10-231. Enforcement.** The highway patrol and any designated employee of the department of transportation shall enforce this part and 61-3-502(1), and those persons shall examine and inspect the motor vehicles operating upon the highways in this state and regulated by this part and 61-3-502(1) to ascertain whether or not those laws are being complied with.

**61-10-232. Violation -- penalty.** Any owner or operator of a motortruck, truck tractor, trailer, semitrailer, bus, or automobile who violates any provision of this part is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$300 or by a sentence of not more than 60 days in the county jail or both.

**61-10-233. Excess weight -- penalties.** (1) The operator is subject to the penalties stated in 61-10-232 whenever the gross loaded weight of any trucks, truck tractor, trailer, or semitrailer operated upon any highway in this state exceeds the gross vehicle weight shown on:

(a) the owner's certificate of registration and payment receipt issued under 61-3-322; or

(b) the gross vehicle weight receipt issued under 61-10-227.

(2) In addition, the operator shall immediately pay to the nearest county treasurer or to the department the difference between the fee already paid and that applicable to the gross weight of his vehicle before unloading the excess, provided that it does not exceed the legal axle weight.

## **Enforcement Authority**

**61-12-201. Appointment of employees and out-of-state personnel as peace officers -- definition.** (1) The director of transportation may appoint employees of the department as peace officers to carry out this part. The employees appointed may include only those employees of the department who are employed in the administration of the motor carrier services functions of the department and employees of other states. Out-of-state personnel may be appointed only for the purpose of enforcing gross vehicle weight laws at joint weigh station facilities. Each employee appointed must be issued a certificate of appointment and execute an oath of office, which must be entered into the records of the department.

(2) The department may enter into joint weigh station agreements with other states. If the department enters into a joint weigh station agreement with another state, the department may not reduce staff levels in the motor carrier services division of the department as a result of the agreement but may reassign staff. However, this subsection does not apply to a reduction in force for the department as a whole.

(3) As used in this part, "department" means the department of transportation.

**61-12-202. Training of department peace officers -- rules.** (1) The department shall provide such training as required to qualify those employees to competently perform their duties under this part and shall adopt such rules as are required and necessary for qualification of those employees as peace officers.

(2) An employee may not make arrests until he has successfully completed such training as required by the department.

**61-12-203. Official attire required for making arrests and carrying firearms.** Qualified employees may make arrests throughout the state only when dressed in official uniform and displaying the official badge authorized by the department. Authorized employees may not carry firearms unless officially attired.

**61-12-204. Identification badge and uniform -- safety equipment.** (1) Employees of the department engaged in the enforcement of this part shall wear and prominently display an identification badge or device with the employee's name and title shown on the identification badge or device. The department may authorize uniform dress for department employees engaged in such enforcement.

(2) The department may issue soft body armor to an employee engaged in the enforcement of this part upon request of the employee after the employee's appointment as a peace officer.

**61-12-205. Power to inspect vehicle registration, receipts, and other documents.** Employees of the department appointed under 61-12-201 may when officially dressed make reasonable inspection of vehicle registration receipts, department receipts and registrations, special permits, and other documents required to be carried in or for a vehicle traveling on the public highways of Montana.

**61-12-206. Offenses for which arrest authorized.** Employees appointed under 61-12-201 may make arrests for violations of the following statutory provisions:

- (1) chapters 3 and 5 of this title, but only if the vehicle involved is subject to 61-10-141;
- (2) chapter 10 of this title;
- (3) part 3, chapter 4, of this title;
- (4) 15-24-201 through 15-24-205;
- (5) Title 15, chapter 70, parts 2 and 3;
- (6) 44-1-1005 and safety rules adopted under that section;
- (7) Title 69, chapter 12.

**61-12-207. Cooperation with other agencies.** Such employees of the department shall cooperate with other law enforcement agencies.

**61-12-208. Duty upon making arrest -- power to fix and accept bail.** Employees appointed under 61-12-201, upon making an arrest, shall deliver to the offender a form of notice to appear, describing the nature of the offense, with instructions on the notice for the offender to report to the nearest justice of the peace. The employee may accept a deposit for appearance justifiable for the offense charged. The person who is arrested may be detained for a reasonable time for the purpose of issuing the notice or of awaiting the arrival of another peace officer who has been called to the scene, or the person may be transported, as provided in 46-7-101. If the employee accepts bail, the employee shall give a signed receipt to the offender, setting forth the amount received. The employee shall then deliver the bail money to the justice of the peace before whom the offender is to appear, and the justice of the peace shall give a receipt to the employee for the amount of bail money delivered. After the filing of the complaint and appearance of the defendant, the justice of the peace shall assume jurisdiction and may set and accept further appearance bail bond.

### **Motor Carrier Law - Public Service Commission**

**69-12-101. Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter the following definitions apply:

(1) "Between fixed termini" or "over a regular route" means the termini or route between or over which a motor carrier usually or ordinarily operates motor vehicles, even though there may be periodical or irregular departures from the termini or route.

(2) "Certificate" means the certificate of public convenience and necessity issued under this chapter.

(3) "Compensation" means the charge imposed on motor carriers for the use of the highways in this state by motor carriers under 69-12-421.

(4) "Corporation" means a corporation, company, association, or joint-stock association.

(5) "For hire" means for remuneration of any kind, paid or promised, either directly or indirectly, or received or obtained through leasing, brokering, or buy-and-sell arrangements from which a remuneration is obtained or derived for transportation service.

(6) "Garbage" means ashes, trash, waste, refuse, rubbish, organic or inorganic matter that is transported to a licensed transfer station, licensed landfill, licensed municipal solid waste incinerator, or licensed disposal well. The term does not include wastewater and waste tires.

(7) "Household goods" means any of the following:

(a) personal effects and property used or to be used in a dwelling when they are a part of the equipment or supply of the dwelling. The term does not include property moving from a factory or store unless the property is purchased by a householder for use in a dwelling and is transported at the request of the householder.

(b) furniture, fixtures, equipment, and the property of stores, offices, museums, institutions, hospitals, or other establishments when those items are a part of the stock, equipment, or supply of the stores, offices, museums, institutions, hospitals, or other establishments. The term does not include the stock-in-trade of an establishment, whether consignor or consignee, other than used furniture and used fixtures, except when transported as incidental to moving of the establishment or a portion of the establishment from one location to another.

(c) articles, including objects of art, displays, and exhibitions that because of their unusual nature or value, require the specialized handling and equipment usually employed in moving household goods and other similar articles.

(8) "Motor carrier" means a person or corporation, or its lessees, trustees, or receivers appointed by a court, operating motor vehicles upon a public highway in this state for the transportation of passengers, household goods, or garbage for hire on a commercial basis, either as a common carrier or under private contract, agreement, charter, or undertaking. (9) "Motor vehicle" includes vehicles or machines, motor trucks, tractors, or other self-propelled vehicles used for the transportation of property or persons over the public highways of the state.

(10) "Person" means an individual, firm, or partnership.

(11) "Public highway" means a public street, road, highway, or way in this state.

(12) "Railroad" means the movement of cars on rails, regardless of the motive power used.

(13) "Recyclable" means any material diverted from the solid waste stream that can be reused in the production of heat or energy or as raw material for new products and for which markets exist.

**69-12-102. Scope of chapter -- exemptions.** (1) This chapter does not affect:

(a) the operation of school buses that are used in conveying pupils or other students enrolled in classes to and from district or other schools or in transportation movements related to school activities that are sponsored or supervised by school authorities;

(b) the transportation by means of motor vehicles in the regular course of business of employees by a person or corporation engaged exclusively in the construction or maintenance of highways or engaged exclusively in logging or mining operations, insofar as the use of employees in construction and production is concerned;

(c) the transportation of household goods and garbage by motor vehicle in a city, town, or village with a population of less than 500 persons according to the latest United States census or in the commercial areas of a city, town, or village, as determined by the commission;

(d) the transportation of newspapers, newspaper supplements, periodicals, or magazines;

(e) motor vehicles used exclusively in carrying junk vehicles from a collection point to a motor vehicle wrecking facility or a motor vehicle graveyard;

(f) ambulances;

(g) the transportation by motor vehicle of not more than 15 passengers between their places of residence or termini near their residences and their places of employment in a single daily round trip if the driver is also going to or from the driver's place of employment;

(h) the operation of:

(i) a transportation system by a municipality or transportation district as provided in Title 7, chapter 14, part 2; or

(ii) municipal bus service pursuant to Title 7, chapter 14, part 44;

(i) armored motor vehicles used for the transportation of valuable paintings and other items of unusual value requiring special handling and security;

(j) the transportation of household goods or garbage under an agreement between a motor carrier and an office or agency of the United States government; or

(k) the transportation of disabled or elderly persons provided by private, nonprofit organizations. As used in this subsection:

(i) "disabled" means an individual who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;

(ii) "elderly" means a person 60 years of age or older; and

(iii) "private, nonprofit organization" means an organization recognized as nonprofit under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(2) Except for the identification of ownership requirements provided in 69-12-408, this chapter does not affect commercial tow trucks designed and exclusively used in towing wrecked, disabled, or abandoned vehicles or while these tow trucks are rendering assistance to wrecked, disabled, or abandoned vehicles. However, commercial tow truck firms shall file policies of insurance showing coverage required by 61-8-906.



(3) This chapter does not prevent bona fide leases, brokerage agreements, or buy-and-sell agreements.

**69-12-104. Determination of operation between fixed termini or over a regular route.** Whether or not a motor vehicle is operated by a motor carrier between fixed termini or over a regular route or otherwise under this chapter is a question of fact to be determined by the commission.

**69-12-105. Nature of accommodative transportation.** An accommodative transportation movement by a person not in the transportation business is not a service for hire even though the persons owning the property transported or persons transported share in the cost or pay for the movement.

**69-12-106. Acts indicative of status as motor carrier.** Any person or corporation maintaining a public motor vehicle stand or by sign, symbol, or device or vehicle or clothing or by advertisement holding forth transportation for compensation or soliciting the transportation of persons or property for compensation among the public or soliciting for trips for compensation or providing transportation service to the public under the guise of leasing or buy-and-sell arrangements shall be deemed, prima facie, a "motor carrier" subject to this chapter. The burden of proof shall be on such person or corporation to disprove such status.

**69-12-107. Status of private carriers under motor carrier laws.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as converting or attempting to convert a private carrier into a common carrier. It is hereby declared that this chapter is intended primarily as a regulation of the public highways of the state.

**69-12-108. Violations.** Any motor carrier subject to the provisions of this chapter, as amended, or whenever any such motor carrier is a corporation, any director or officer thereof; any receiver, trustee, lessee, agent, or person acting for or employed by such corporation; any person, corporation, or association or officer, agent, or employee thereof; or any broker of property or officer, agent, or employee thereof who violates or fails to comply with or who procures, aids, or abets in the violation of any provision of this chapter, as amended, or who fails to obey, observe, or comply with any lawful order, decision, rule, direction, demand, or requirement of the commission or any part of the provisions thereof is:

(1) subject to a civil penalty, to be collected and deposited to the general fund by the commission after notice and hearing, in an amount not less than \$25 or more than \$500 for the first offense and not less than \$25 or more than \$1,000 for each subsequent offense; or

(2) subject, upon conviction in a justice's court, to a fine of not less than \$25 or more than \$500 for the first offense and not less than \$25 or more than \$1,000 for each subsequent offense.

**69-12-201. Supervision and regulation of motor carriers.** (1) The commission has the power and authority and it is its duty to:

(a) supervise and regulate every motor carrier in this state;

(b) fix, alter, regulate, and determine specific, just, reasonable, equal, nondiscriminatory, and sufficient rates, fares, charges, and classifications for Class A and Class B motor carriers;

(c) regulate the properties, facilities, operations, accounts, service, practices, and affairs of all motor carriers;

(d) require the filing of annual and other reports, tariffs, schedules, or other data by motor carriers;

(e) supervise and regulate motor carriers in all matters affecting the relationship between motor carriers and the traveling and shipping public.

(2) The commission may, by general order or otherwise, prescribe rules in conformity with this chapter and applicable to any and all motor carriers.

(3) The commission may fix and determine reasonable maximum or minimum rates for the operations of any Class C motor carrier when rates are required for the best interests of public transportation.

**69-12-202. Encouragement of common carrier motor transportation.** To fully secure adequate motor transportation facilities for all users of such service and to secure the public advantages thereof, the commission shall encourage a system of common carrier motor transportation within the state for the convenience of the shipping public. The maintenance of a common carrier motor transportation system within Montana is hereby declared to be a public purpose.

**69-12-203. Supervisor of motor carriers.** (1) The commission shall appoint a supervisor of motor carriers who shall have general responsibility to the commission for enforcement of the provisions of this chapter. The supervisor shall be either an attorney admitted to practice law in Montana or a person qualified by at least 5 years of suitable experience and training in appropriate phases of the motor carrier industry. He shall serve at the pleasure of the commission and at an annual salary to be set by the commission.

(2) The supervisor shall direct all enforcement activities in behalf of the commission, including the investigation and prosecution of violations of this chapter, as amended, or the rules or orders prescribed thereunder by the commission.

(3) The supervisor and whatever field inspectors may be employed by the commission to assist him shall be deemed peace officers for the purpose of making arrests in connection with violations of this chapter, as amended, and issuing summonses, accepting bail, and serving warrants of arrest. The supervisor and field inspectors are empowered to make reasonable inspections of cargoes carried by commercial motor vehicles and require production of manifests, bills of lading, leases, and other documents relating to the cargo, driver, routing, or ownership of such vehicles. The scope of the inspections is limited to the enforcement of the provisions of Title 69, chapter 12.

**69-12-204. General administrative procedure.** Insofar as possible and applicable, the provisions of statutes prescribing the procedure before the commission in cases involving rates, facilities, service, or other affairs of railroads in this state, including forms of applications, complaints, answers, orders, and notices of hearing; the conducting of hearings; compelling the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of records, data, and information; and the preparation, recording, and serving of reports and orders of the commission, shall be followed and shall govern in all proceedings and investigations before the commission in cases arising in connection with the performance by the commission of its duties or the exercise of its jurisdiction under the provisions of this chapter.

**69-12-205. Rules to reflect differences between carrier classes.** All rules in relation to schedules, service, tariffs, rates, facilities, accounts, and reports must have due regard for the differences existing between Class A, Class B, Class C, and Class D motor carriers, as defined in this chapter, and must be just, fair, and reasonable to the classes of motor carriers in their relations to each other and to the public. In fixing the tariff or rates to be charged by Class A and Class B motor carriers for the carrying of persons or property, or both, the commission shall take into consideration the kind and character of service to be performed, the public necessity of the service, and the effect of the tariff and rates upon other transportation agencies, if any, and shall, as far as possible, avoid detrimental or unreasonable competition with existing railroad service or service furnished by a motor carrier.

**69-12-206. Investigations by commission.** (1) Any investigation, inquiry, or hearing which the commission has power to undertake or to hold under the provisions of this chapter may be undertaken or held by or before any member of the commission or by and before any agent or examiner of the commission designated for the purpose by the commission. Every finding, order, or decision made by a member of the commission or agent or examiner of the commission so designated, together with a

statement in writing of the reasons therefor (which statement must be included in the finding, order, or decision, pursuant to the investigation, inquiry, or hearing) when approved and confirmed by the commission and ordered filed in its office shall be considered the finding, order, or decision of the commission.

(2) An agent or examiner of the commission designated as aforesaid may administer oaths, examine witnesses, and receive evidence.

**69-12-207. Temporary operating authority.** (1) To enable the provision of service for which there is an immediate and urgent need to a point or points or within a territory having no carrier service capable of meeting such need, the commission may, in its discretion upon affidavits or such other evidence as it may deem sufficient and without hearings or other proceedings, grant temporary authority for such service by a common carrier by motor vehicle or a contract carrier by motor vehicle, as the case may be. Such affidavits or other evidence as the commission may determine must accompany the application for temporary authority. The affidavits or other evidence must specify in detail the reason for supporting the application for temporary authority and the term within which the temporary authority would be required.

(2) Such temporary authority, unless suspended or revoked for good cause, shall be valid for such time as the commission shall specify, but for not more than 90 days. Temporary authority initially granted pursuant to the provisions hereof may be extended by the commission without hearings or other proceedings, but in no case shall a grant of temporary authority with extensions exceed an aggregate of 120 days.

(3) Neither the granting of temporary authority nor operation thereunder shall create any presumption that corresponding permanent authority will be granted thereafter. Transportation service rendered under such temporary authority shall be subject to all applicable provisions of this chapter and to the rules and requirements of the commission thereunder.

**69-12-208. Provisions for bus service.** The commission, after 10 days' notice and public hearing, shall have the power to compel all motor carrier bus lines under its jurisdiction to furnish, provide, and maintain such service, instrumentalities, equipment, facilities, and time schedules as shall promote the safety, health, comfort, and convenience of its passengers and employees and the public and as shall in all respects be adequate, efficient, just, and reasonable.

**69-12-209. Enforcement procedures.** (1) Orders and final determinations of the commission in all proceedings pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall be enforced in the manner provided for the enforcement of orders of the commission by the provisions of parts 1, 3, 4, and 8 of chapter 14.

(2) If any motor carrier shall operate in violation of the provisions of this chapter or shall fail or neglect to obey any lawful order of the commission, the commission or any party injured may apply to any court of competent jurisdiction, in any county where such motor carrier is engaged in business, for the enforcement of this chapter or such order. The court shall enforce obedience thereto by writ of injunction or other proper process, mandatory or otherwise, to restrain such carrier or its officers, agents, employees, or representatives from further violation of this chapter or such order or to enjoin upon it or them obedience to the same.

**69-12-210. Complaints.** (1) The commission has jurisdiction to conduct investigations and hear complaints to determine whether a motor carrier has violated any of the commission's rules or orders or any provision of this chapter.

(2) Following an opportunity for hearing and upon a finding that a motor carrier has violated any of the commission's rules or orders or any provision of this chapter, the commission may suspend or revoke the motor carrier's certificate of operating authority or impose any penalty provided for under 69-12-108.

**69-12-301. Classification of motor carriers.** (1) Motor carriers are divided into four classes to be known as:

- (a) Class A motor carriers;
- (b) Class B motor carriers;
- (c) Class C motor carriers; and
- (d) Class D motor carriers.

(2) Class A motor carriers include all motor carriers operating between fixed termini or over a regular route and under regular rates or charges, based upon either station-to-station rates or upon a mileage rate or scale.

(3) Class B motor carriers include all motor carriers operating under regular rates or charges based upon either station-to-station rates or upon a mileage rate or scale and not between fixed termini or over a regular route.

(4) Class C motor carriers include all motor carriers where the remuneration is fixed in and the transportation service furnished under a contract, charter, agreement, or undertaking.

(5) Class D motor carriers include all motor carriers operating motor vehicles transporting garbage.

**69-12-302. Class C contract requirements.** (1) A Class C motor carrier may operate under no more than six contracts that are effective at any given time, and each contract must be effective for a minimum of 180 days. Before transportation service may commence, pertinent contract information must be furnished to the commission for each contract on forms prescribed by the commission. The commission shall retain a duplicate of the information in its files, and a copy of the form, confirmed by the commission, must be kept in the cab of the motor carrier when operating under that contract.

(2) All Class C motor carriers shall annually submit to the commission the names and addresses of all persons, corporations, or other legal entities with whom the Class C carrier has executed a contract, charter, agreement, or undertaking for the distribution, delivery, or collection of wares, merchandise, or commodities or for transporting persons.

(3) The provisions of this section do not apply to solid waste contractors, transportation of recyclables, household goods carriers, or house movers, as defined by the department of public service regulation, or any carrier whose authority is limited to the pickup and delivery of property and is confined by certificate to transportation within a distance of 50 miles or less from a particular location. A carrier whose property authority is incidental to the transportation of persons is not included in the exemption under this subsection.

**69-12-311. Class A motor carrier certificate.** (1) No Class A motor carrier shall operate for the transportation of persons and/or property for hire on any public highway in this state without first having obtained from the commission, under the provisions of this chapter, a certificate declaring that public convenience and necessity require such operation.

(2) A motor carrier making application for such certificate shall do so in writing, separately for each route, which petition shall be verified by the applicant and shall specify the following matters:

- (a) the name and address of the applicant and the names and addresses of its officers, if any;
- (b) the public highway or highways over which and the fixed termini between which or the regular route or routes over which it intends to operate;
- (c) the kind of transportation, whether passenger, freight, or both, together with a full and complete description of the character of the vehicle or vehicles to be used, including the seating capacity of any vehicle to be used for passenger traffic and the tonnage capacity of any vehicle to be used in freight traffic;
- (d) the proposed time schedule;
- (e) a schedule of the tariff or rates desired to be charged for the transportation of freight and/or passengers;

- (f) a complete and detailed description of the property proposed to be devoted to the public service;
  - (g) a detailed statement showing the assets and liabilities of such applicant; and
  - (h) such other or additional information as the commission may by order require.
- (3) Such application shall be accompanied by a filing fee to be set by rule of the commission.

**69-12-312. Class B motor carrier certificate.** (1) No Class B motor carrier shall operate for the transportation of persons and/or property for hire on any public highway in this state without first having obtained from the commission, under the provisions of this chapter, a certificate that public convenience and necessity require such operations.

(2) A motor carrier making application for such permit shall do so in writing, separately for each locality for which consideration is desired, which petition shall be verified and shall specify the following matters:

- (a) name and address of the applicant and the names and addresses of its officers, if any;
  - (b) the kind of transportation, whether passenger, freight, or both, together with a full and complete description of the character of the vehicle or vehicles to be used, including the seating capacity of any vehicle to be used for passenger traffic and the tonnage capacity of any vehicle to be used in freight traffic;
  - (c) the locality and character of operations to be conducted;
  - (d) a schedule of the tariff of rates desired to be charged for the transportation of freight and/or passengers;
  - (e) a complete and detailed description of the property proposed to be devoted to the public service;
  - (f) a detailed statement showing the assets and liabilities of such applicant; and
  - (g) such other or additional information as the commission may by order require.
- (3) Such application shall be accompanied by a filing fee to be set by rule of the commission.

**69-12-313. Class C motor carrier certificate.** (1) No Class C motor carrier, except any Class C motor carrier operating pursuant to the terms and conditions of a contract as provided in 69-12-324, shall operate for the distribution, delivery, or collection of goods, wares, merchandise, or commodities or for the transportation of persons on any public highway in this state without first having obtained from the commission, under the provisions of this chapter, a certificate that public convenience and necessity require such operation.

(2) A motor carrier making application for such permit shall do so in writing, separately for each route or locality for which consideration is desired, which petition shall be verified by the applicant and shall specify the following matters:

- (a) the name and address of the applicant and the names and addresses of its officers, if any;
  - (b) the public highways or highways over which and the fixed termini between which or the route or routes over which it intends to operate, if the same are fixed, or the particular city, town, station, or locality from and/or to which the applicant intends to operate;
  - (c) the kind of transportation and the character of the goods, wares, merchandise, or commodities to be distributed, delivered, or collected, together with a full and complete description of the character of the vehicle or vehicles, including the rated tonnage capacity of such vehicles, to be used in such service of distribution, delivery, or collection; and
  - (d) such other or additional information as the commission may by order require.
- (3) Such application shall be accompanied by a fee to be set by rule of the commission.

(4) The submission of a Class C motor carrier application must be accompanied by the names and addresses of any person, corporation, or other legal entity with whom the applicant has executed a contract for the distribution, delivery, or collection of wares, merchandise, or commodities or transporting persons. Such contracts must be in writing, executed by the parties and submitted to the commission for examination.

**69-12-314. Class D motor carrier certificate.** (1) Class D carriers shall conduct operations pursuant to a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the commission authorizing the transportation of the commodities described in 69-12-301(5). Class D carriers when applying for a new or additional authority shall file an application with the commission in accordance with the requirements of this chapter and the rules of the commission.

(2) A motor carrier may not possess a Class D motor carrier certificate or operate as a Class D motor carrier unless the motor carrier actually engages in the transportation of garbage on a regular basis as part of the motor carrier's usual business operation.

**69-12-321. Hearing on application for motor carrier certificate.** (1) Upon the filing of an application by a Class A, Class B, Class C, or Class D motor carrier, except a Class C motor carrier authorized to operate under the terms of a contract as provided in 69-12-324, or upon the filing of a request for a transfer of authority, the commission shall give notice of the filing of the application to any interested party. The commission shall fix a time and place for a hearing on the application whenever a protest or a request for a hearing is received. The hearing must be set for a date not later than 60 days after receipt of a protest or a hearing request by the commission. Whenever no protests or hearing requests are received, the commission may act on the application without a hearing as prescribed by commission rules.

(2) A motor carrier referred to in 69-12-322, the department of transportation, the governing board or boards of any county, town, or city into or through which the route or service as proposed may extend, and any person or corporation concerned are interested parties to the proceedings and may offer testimony for or against the granting of the certificate.

(3) The contracting parties referred to in 69-12-313(4) must appear and offer testimony in support of the applicant.

(4) However, an application by a Class A, Class B, Class C, or Class D motor carrier for a certificate may be disallowed without a public hearing when it appears from the records of the commission that the route or territory sought to be served by the applicant has previously been made the basis of a public investigation and finding by the commission that public convenience and necessity do not require the proposed motor carrier service unless it is made to affirmatively appear in the application by a recital of the facts that conditions obtaining over the route or in the territory and affecting transportation facilities have materially changed since the previous public investigation and finding and that public convenience and necessity now require the motor carrier operation.

**69-12-322. Notice of hearing.** (1) Whenever a hearing is scheduled, whether as a result of a protest or request or upon the commission's own motion, the commission shall cause a copy of the petition and notice of hearing to be served upon an officer or owner of any motor carrier that in the opinion of the commission might be affected by the granting of the certificate and shall notify any other affected party at least 10 days before the date of hearing.

(2) Notice of the hearing must be published:

(a) in the legal advertising section of a local newspaper or newspapers determined by the commission to have a circulation sufficient to reach the consuming public in the area under consideration for applications for Class C authority and geographically limited Class B authority; and

(b) in appropriate newspapers determined by the commission to have sufficient statewide circulation in the case of applications for Class A authority and geographically broad contemplated Class B authority.

**69-12-323. Decision on application.** (1) The commission must issue, within 180 days from and after the date of the completed filing of said application, its finding, order, or decision on said application and the evidence presented in support thereof at the time of said hearing. The commission may extend the foregoing time for decision to a date requested by the applicant.

(2) (a) If after hearing upon application for a certificate, the commission finds from the evidence that public convenience and necessity require the authorization of the service proposed or any part thereof, as the commission shall determine, a certificate therefor shall be issued. In determining whether a certificate should be issued, the commission shall give reasonable consideration to the transportation service being furnished or that will be furnished by any railroad or other existing transportation agency and shall give due consideration to the likelihood of the proposed service being permanent and continuous throughout 12 months of the year and the effect which the proposed transportation service may have upon other forms of transportation service which are essential and indispensable to the communities to be affected by such proposed transportation service or that might be affected thereby.

(b) For purposes of Class D certificates, a determination of public convenience and necessity may include a consideration of competition.

(3) The commission may issue the certificate as prayed for or issue it for the partial exercise only of the privilege sought and may attach to the exercise of the rights granted by such certificate such terms and conditions as in its judgment the public convenience and necessity may require. When a certificate has once been issued to a motor carrier as provided in this part, such certificate shall continue in force until terminated by the commission for cause as herein provided or until terminated by the owner's failure to comply with 69-12-402.

**69-12-324. Special provisions when federal or state contract involved.** (1) The presentation of the written contract to the commission shall be deemed sufficient proof of public convenience and necessity in accordance with the terms and conditions contained within the United States government or state government contracts. Subject to the provisions of this section, a transportation movement is considered to be:

(a) the transportation for hire of persons between two points within the state by a motor carrier pursuant to the terms of a written contract between the carrier and the United States government or an agency or department thereof; or

(b) the transportation for hire of solid waste between two points within the state by a motor carrier pursuant to the terms of a written contract between the carrier and the state government or an agency or department thereof.

(2) The Class C certificate of public convenience and necessity issued pursuant to the terms and conditions of the United States government or state government contract may be issued by the commission upon receipt of an executed copy of the United States government or state government contract. The certificate of public convenience and necessity may be issued thereafter without requiring the commission to fix a time and place for public hearing.

(3) The certificate of public convenience and necessity, issued pursuant to the terms of the United States government or state government contract, is authorized only for the duration of the United States government or state government contract concerned. The certificate may be renewed for another definite term if the same motor carrier is the motor carrier authorized to operate under the United States government or state government contract.

**69-12-325. Transfer of certificate or privilege.** Any right, privilege, or certificate held, owned, or obtained by any motor carrier may be sold, assigned, leased, transferred, and inherited as other property only by the authorization of the commission.

**69-12-326. Lease of certificate.** (1) An authorized carrier operating within the state may lease its certificate or any integral segment thereof to another carrier only by approval of the commission. The contract or lease under which the certificate is leased must be in writing and approved by the commission prior to any operation under the certificate. The contract or lease must specify:

(a) the period for which a certificate is to be leased, which shall not be less than 30 days;

(b) the compensation to be paid;

(c) the time or date upon which the lease will commence and terminate; and

(d) the signatures of the parties thereto.

(2) Operation under the certificate is prohibited until approved by the commission in writing. During the period of the contract or lease, transportation movements under the contract or lease must be performed by the entity contracting for or leasing the certificate, or any integral segment thereof, while transportation movements by the owner (lessor) are prohibited.

**69-12-327. Revocation of certificate -- right of review.** (1) If it appears that a certificate holder is violating or refusing to observe any of the commission's orders or rules or any provision of Title 69, as amended, the commission may issue an order to the certificate holder to show cause why the certificate should not be revoked. If the certificate holder fails to appear to show cause as ordered by the commission, the certificate may be revoked without a hearing. If the holder does appear to show cause, the commission may:

(a) dismiss the proceeding, notifying the holder that the certificate is not revoked; or

(b) hold a hearing on the question of revocation, notifying the holder of the time and place for the hearing.

(2) The holder of any such certificate or privilege shall have all rights of rehearing and review as to such order of the commission as is provided in this chapter.

**69-12-331. Special provisions relating to transportation of buildings.** A certificate that permits the transportation of a building other than a mobile home or a manufactured home, as defined in 15-1-101, from its existing foundation to a new location must permit transportation throughout the state and may not restrict transportation to a particular region of the state.

**69-12-401. Compliance with state law.** It shall be unlawful for any corporation or person, its or his officers, agents, employees, or servants, to operate any motor vehicle for the transportation of persons and/or property for hire on any public highway in this state except in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

**69-12-402. Compliance with commission rules.** No certificate shall be issued or remain in force unless the holder thereof shall comply with such rules of the commission as it shall adopt governing the filing of bonds, policies of insurance, or such security or agreement in such form and adequate amount and conditioned as the commission may require for:

(1) the prompt payment of all compensation or fees due the state under the provisions of this chapter; and

(2) the payment of any final judgment which may be rendered against any such motor carrier arising out of the death of or injury to any passenger or injury to other persons or property as a result of any negligent operation of the motor vehicles or such motor carrier, with power in the commission to permit self-insurance whenever, in its opinion, the financial ability of the motor carrier warrants.

**69-12-403. Discontinuance of service.** No Class A or Class B motor carrier shall abandon or discontinue any service established under this chapter without an order of the commission therefor.

**69-12-404. Suspension of intrastate operating authority by petition.** (1) Every motor carrier as defined within this chapter may petition the commission in writing to suspend its intrastate operating authority for a period not to exceed 6 months. An additional 6 months' suspension may be requested and granted, but no other. Such suspension may be granted by the commission upon a showing of present absence of public convenience and necessity or other showing of matters affecting motor carrier transportation.

(2) The suspension of any intrastate operating authority of any carrier as provided for in subsection (1) for a period of 12 consecutive months shall be deemed to establish a prima facie presumption of absence of public convenience and necessity. If after notice and hearing the carrier is



unable to prove the existence of public convenience and necessity or existing demand for the transportation service, the commission is authorized to cancel such certificate of public convenience and necessity.

**69-12-406. Restriction on transportation of certain waste.** Except as provided in 69-12-324, a Class A, B, or C carrier may not be authorized or permitted to transport garbage within the state. This restriction does not apply to recyclables.

**69-12-407. Records and reports.** (1) All records, books, accounts, and files of every Class A, Class B, Class C, and Class D motor carrier in this state, so far as they relate to the business of transportation conducted by the motor carrier, must at all times be subject to examination by the commission or by any authorized agent or employee of the commission. The commission shall prescribe a uniform system of accounts and uniform reports covering the operations of Class A, Class B, Class C, and Class D motor carriers, and every motor carrier authorized to operate in accordance with the provisions of this chapter shall keep its records, books, and accounts according to the uniform system, insofar as possible.

(2) Before April 1 of each year, unless this deadline has been extended for good cause by the commission, every motor carrier authorized to engage in business shall file with the commission a report, under oath, on a form prescribed and furnished by the commission. Those carriers filing an annual report with the interstate commerce commission shall, in addition to filing the report prescribed by the public service commission, submit to the public service commission a copy of the annual report filed with the interstate commerce commission. In addition to annual reports every motor carrier shall prepare and file with the commission, at the time or times and in the form to be prescribed by the commission, annual reports, special reports, and statements giving to the commission information it requires in order to perform its duties under this chapter.

(3) In addition to other reporting requirements, the commission shall require the holder of a Class D motor carrier certificate to provide sufficient information to show that the carrier is entitled to possess the Class D motor carrier certificate under the requirements of 69-12-314.

**69-12-408. Identification of ownership of certain large motor vehicles.** (1) (a) A person may not operate a motor vehicle or combination of vehicles, except farm vehicles, having a gross weight of more than 10,000 pounds upon the highways of the state unless there is displayed on both sides of each vehicle operated under its own power, either alone or in combination, the name or trade name and city and state of or the name or trade name and the public service commission, interstate commerce commission, or department of transportation number of the person or corporation under whose jurisdiction the vehicle or vehicles is or are being operated.

(b) The display of name must be in letters in sharp contrast to the background and in size, shape, and color readily legible in daylight from a distance of 50 feet while the vehicle is not in motion. The display must be kept and maintained to remain legible. The display may be accomplished either by painting the information on the vehicle or through the use of a decal or a removable device, prepared so that it meets the identification and legibility requirements of this section.

(2) This section does not apply to motor vehicles being transported to dealers from point of manufacture or from one dealer to another or being demonstrated to a prospect or delivered to a buyer from a dealer or a manufacturer.

**69-12-415. Carrier fitness.** A certificate of operating authority may not be issued or remain in force unless the holder of the certificate is fit, willing, and able to perform the authorized service and conforms to the provisions of this chapter and the rules and orders of the commission.

**69-12-421. Annual fee for motor carriers.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), in addition to all of the licenses, fees, or taxes imposed upon motor vehicles in this state and in consideration of the use of the public highways of this state, every motor carrier shall, at the time of the issuance of a certificate and annually thereafter, on or between October 1 and the following January 31, pay to the public service commission of Montana a fee set by rule of the commission for every motor vehicle operated by the carrier over or upon the public highways of this state.

(2) (a) A motor carrier engaged in seasonal operations only, where its operations do not extend continuously over a period of not to exceed 6 months in any calendar year, shall only be required to pay compensation and fees in a sum equal to one-half of the compensation and fees herein provided.

(b) The compensation and fees herein imposed shall not apply to motor vehicles maintained and used by a motor carrier as standby or emergency equipment. The commission shall have the power and it is hereby made its duty to determine what motor vehicles shall be classed as standby or emergency equipment.

**69-12-422. Effect of failure to pay compensation, fees, or charges.** (1) Upon the failure of any motor carrier to pay such compensation when due, the commission may in its discretion revoke the carrier's certificate or privilege, and no carrier whose certificate or privilege is so revoked shall again be authorized to conduct such business until such compensation shall be paid.

(2) All compensation, fees, or charges imposed and accruing under the provisions of this chapter shall be a lien upon all property of the motor carrier used in its operations under this chapter. Said lien shall attach at the time the compensation, fees, or charges become due and payable and shall have the effect of an execution duly levied on such property of the motor carrier and shall so remain until said compensation, fees, or charges are paid or the property sold for the payment thereof.

**69-12-423. Fees to be charged by commission.** (1) The public service commission may, except as otherwise provided by law, require and receive fees before filing annual reports, tariffs, schedules, applications, and supplements not provided by law to be furnished free of charge.

(2) The commission shall require and receive an additional sum to be set by the commission to pay the cost of publishing such notice as may be required by this chapter.

(3) This section does not require or authorize the public service commission to collect fees for the filing of annual reports, tariffs, schedules, and supplements of these which relate solely to interstate commerce.

**69-12-611. Leasing of power equipment.** (1) All Class A, Class B, Class C, and Class D motor carriers subject to the jurisdiction of the commission may lease power equipment for the purpose of performing transportation movements within the state. The leasing of power units must be in writing.

(2) All leases must contain:

- (a) the full names and addresses of negotiating parties;
- (b) a complete description of each vehicle involved;
- (c) a provision that the sole possession, responsibility, control, and direction of each vehicle resides with the lessee for the entire term of the lease;
- (d) a provision that the lessee assumes full responsibility for all regulatory fees;
- (e) the amount of compensation to be paid for use of the vehicle while under the lease and the method by which the compensation is determined;
- (f) the renewal conditions of the lease, if any; and
- (g) the term length of the lease.

(3) A copy of the lease must be maintained in each leased vehicle at all times. Each leased power unit must display in a conspicuous place on both sides of the vehicle the identity and address of the lessor and lessee and the certificate number under which the power unit is operating.

(4) The leasing of power units by an authorized carrier to a noncertificated carrier is prohibited.

**69-12-612. Interchange of equipment.** (1) Common carriers authorized by the commission may enter into interchange agreements with other authorized common carriers providing for the interchange of equipment. Such agreements must be joint applications made to the commission by the carriers affected. To be approved by the commission, the interchange must take place at a fixed terminal where the carriers' routes intersect. Manifests, waybills, or agreements and all shipping data must be in the possession of the operator of the interchanged equipment. When an interchange has been authorized, such equipment shall be operated only by the certificate holder over whose route such equipment is being operated.

(2) Interchange agreements between Class C contract carriers is prohibited.

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